

**MARVEL**

**1**

LGY#166

DONNY CATES • RYAN STEGMAN • JP MAYER • FRANK MARTIN

# VENOM



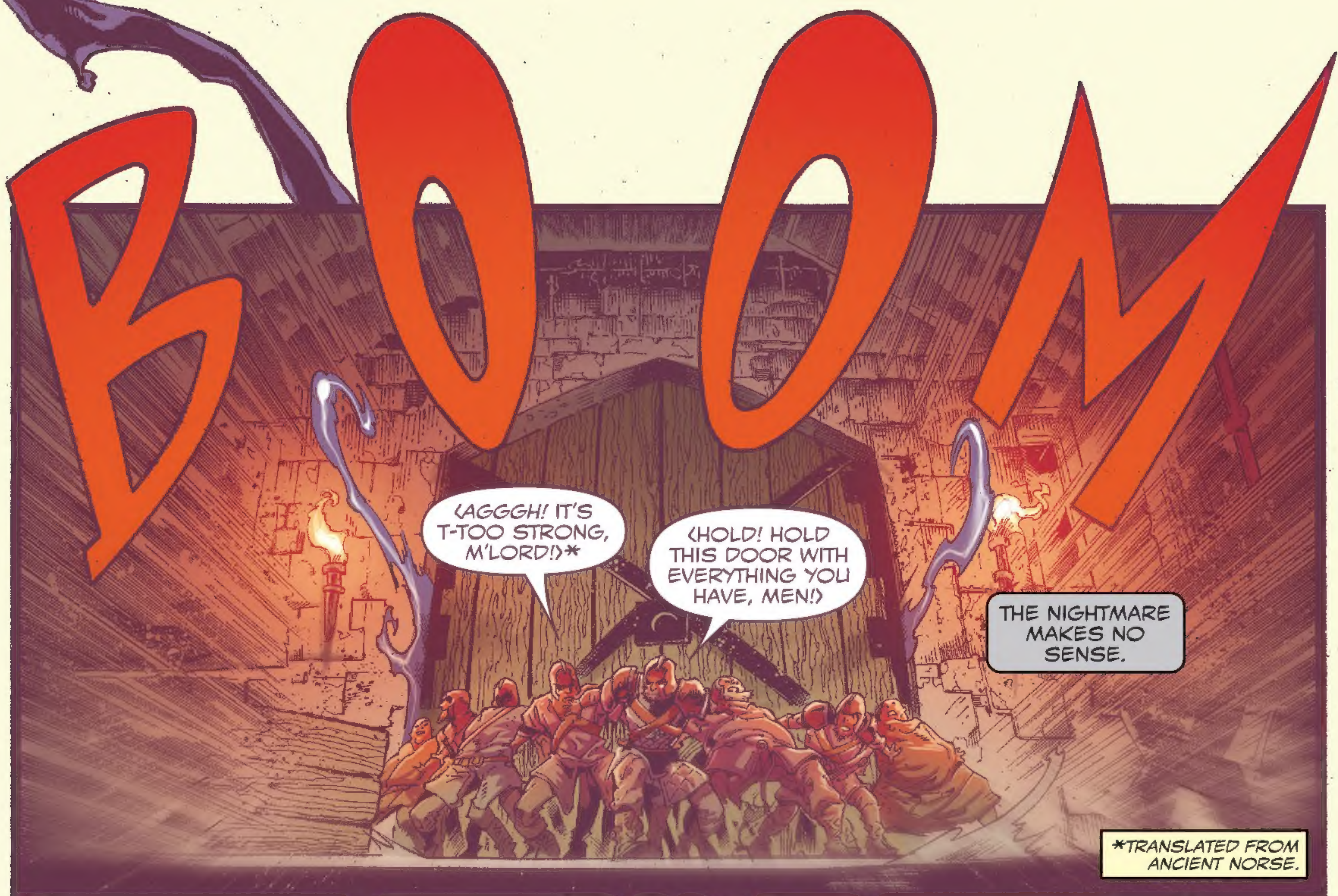
JP  
MAYER

RATED T+ \$4.98US

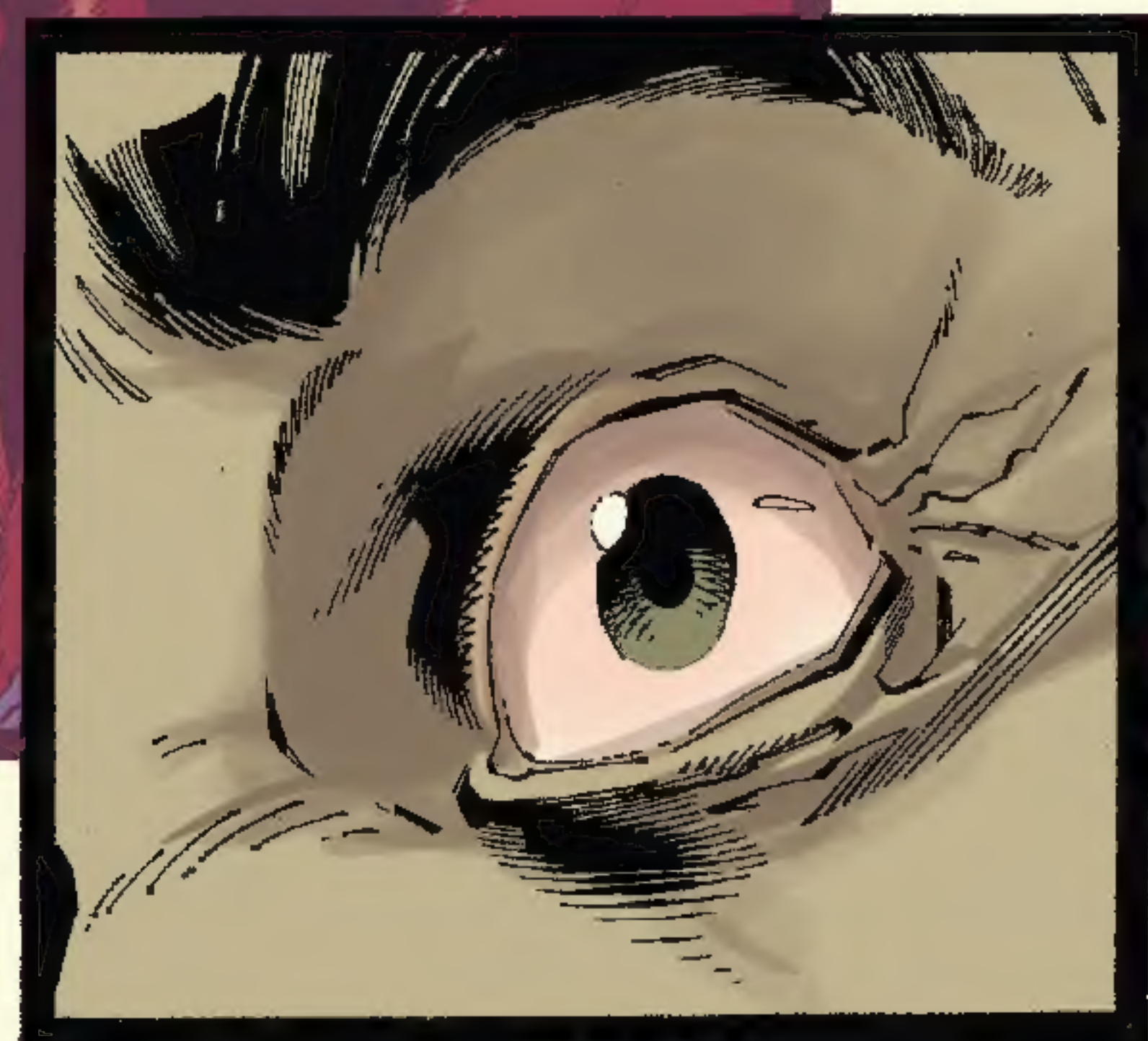
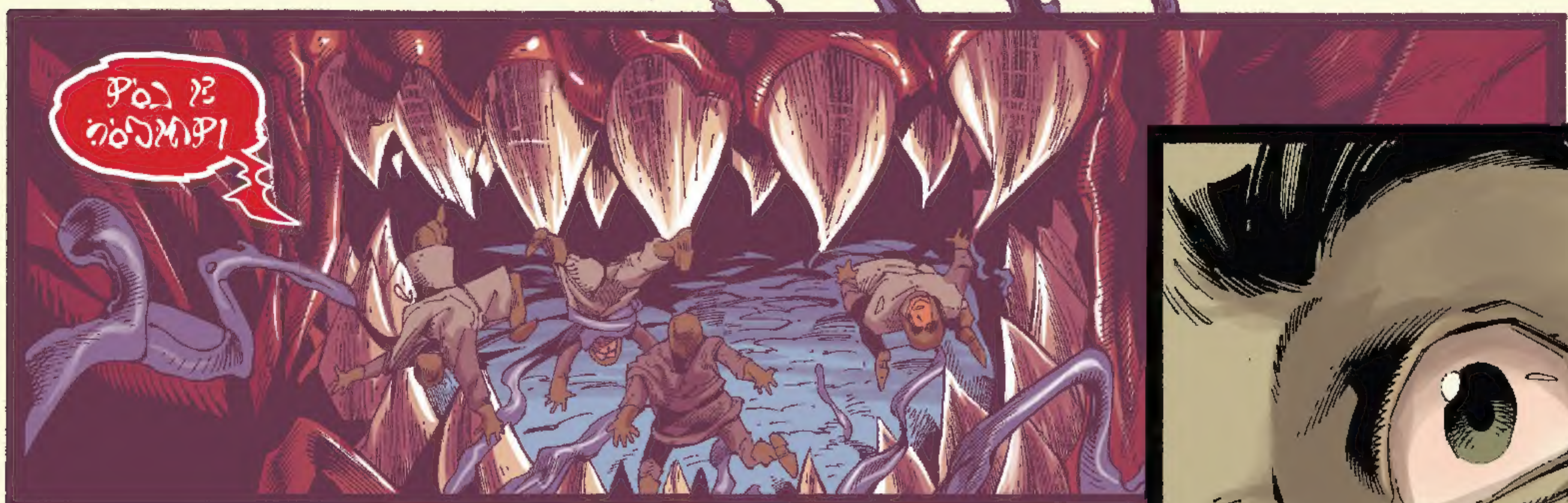


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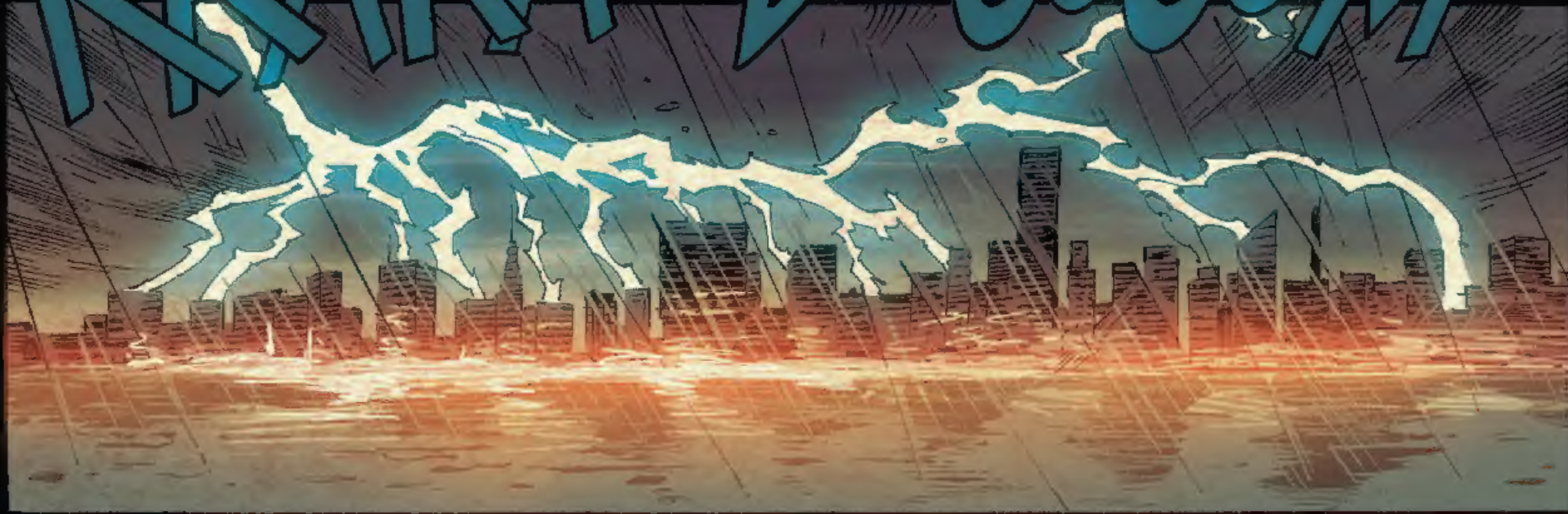








# KRAKA - DOOOOOM



NEW YORK.  
NOW.

I WAKE  
UP ALONE.

W-WHERE?  
WHERE ARE  
YOU?!

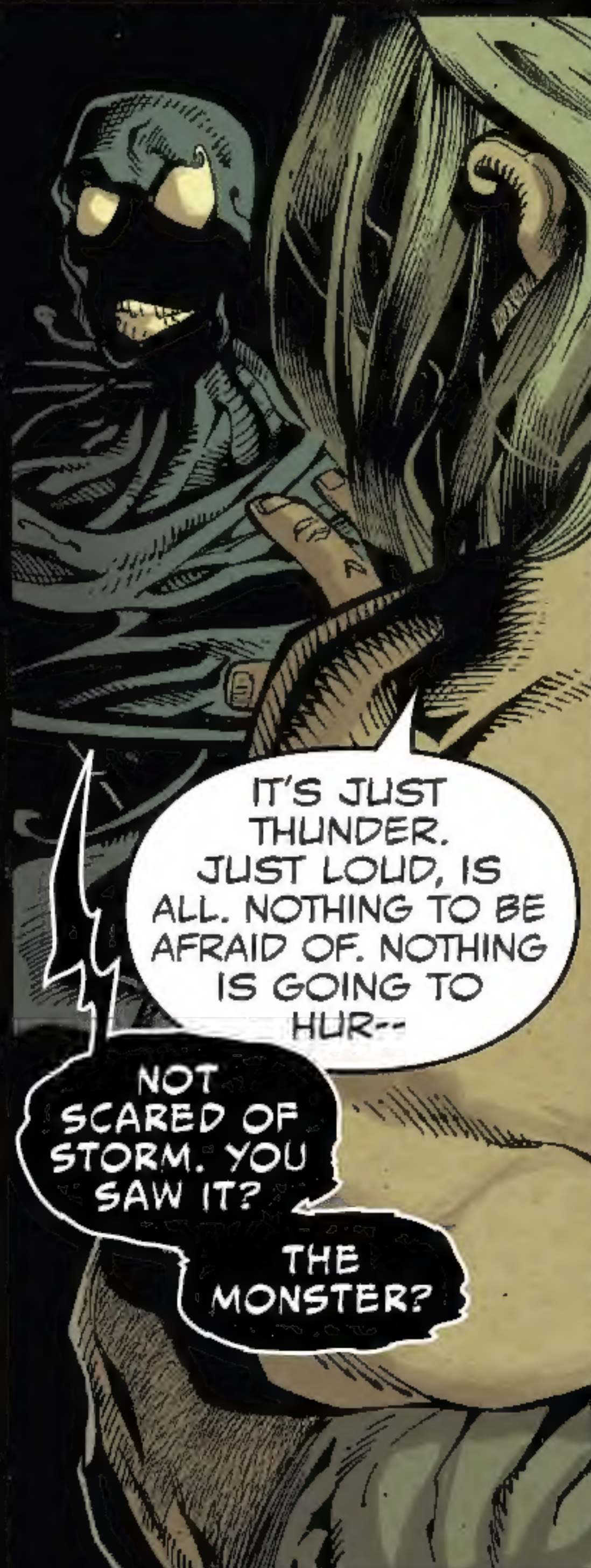
NO...NO,  
NOT ALONE.



NEVER  
ALONE.



HEY...  
HEY, IT'S  
OKAY...



IT'S JUST  
THUNDER.  
JUST LOUD, IS  
ALL. NOTHING TO BE  
AFRAID OF. NOTHING  
IS GOING TO  
HUR--

NOT  
SCARED OF  
STORM. YOU  
SAW IT?

THE  
MONSTER?



YEAH.  
YEAH, I SAW  
IT.

I--I DIDN'T  
KNOW YOU  
COULD HAVE  
NIGHTMARES.

NEITHER  
DID WE,  
EDDIE.



WHY DOES OUR  
MIND HURT?  
WHAT IS WRONG  
WITH US, EDDIE?

NOTHING.  
YOU'RE OKAY.  
IT WAS JUST  
A--

LYING!

IF EVERYTHING IS OKAY,  
THEN WHY DO YOU TAKE  
THE QUIET PILLS?

JUST  
NEED TO THINK,  
OKAY?

EDDIE, PLEASE!  
PLEASE DO NOT  
DO THIS. DO NOT  
SHUT US OUT.

EDDIE! WHY DO  
YOU DO THIS? WE  
CAN BE BETTER!

I'M  
SORRY. I'M  
SORRY...

WE DO NOT KNOW  
WHAT IS WRONG  
WITH US!

EDDIE! EDDIE, PLEASE!  
WE CANNOT CONTROL--

NEEEEEDLES IN  
YOUR EYES!

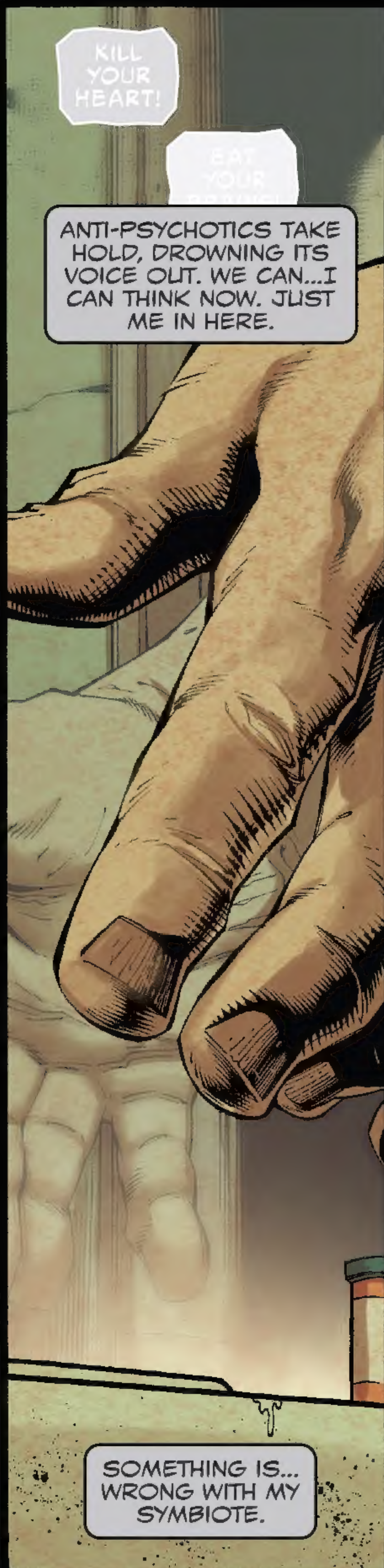
RIP YOU APAAART!  
SQUEEZE YOU TO DEATH  
FROM THE INSSSSSIDE!

YOU  
DON'T MEAN  
THAT. P-PLEASE CALM  
DOWN...I'M YOUR  
FRIEND...

FILL YOUR  
LUNGS! CHOKE  
YOU IN YOUR  
SLEEPP!

JUST...  
JUST BE  
QUIET...





KILL  
YOUR  
HEART!

EAT  
YOUR

ANTI-PSYCHOTICS TAKE  
HOLD, DROWNING ITS  
VOICE OUT. WE CAN...I  
CAN THINK NOW. JUST  
ME IN HERE.

SOMETHING IS...  
WRONG WITH MY  
SYMBIOTE.



IT'S...IT'S LIKE IT'S  
LOSING ITS MIND.  
LIKE IT'S...  
BROKEN.

ITS THOUGHTS AND  
FEELINGS ARE  
ERRATIC. **CRUEL.**  
THE NIGHTMARES  
ARE NEW, BUT THEY  
AREN'T SURPRISING.

FOR THE FIRST  
TIME IN A LONG  
TIME...IT...**IT**  
**SCARES ME.**



IF I CAN'T  
FIX IT  
SOON...



\*KISH\* COME  
IN! I GOT EYES  
ON THAT LANTERN  
FREAK! HIM AND A  
BUNCH OF HIS GOONS  
JUST HEADED INTO A  
WAREHOUSE ON  
CHURCH AND WARREN!  
THIS IS IT! SEND  
EVERYONE YOU  
GOT!

# KRAKA-DOOM



I REPEAT!  
OFFICER REQUESTING  
IMMEDIATE, MASSIVE,  
BACKUP!



YEARS AGO, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH A  
UNIQUE ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE.

AFTER REALIZING THE COSTUME WAS READING HIS MIND AND TRYING  
TO MAKE THEIR UNION PERMANENT, SPIDER-MAN REJECTED IT.

BETRAYED AND LEFT FOR DEAD, THE SYMBIOTE FOUND A WILLING  
HOST IN EDDIE BROCK, A REPORTER WHOSE LIFE SPIDER-MAN HAD  
ALSO RUINED.

BROCK WELCOMED THE SYMBIOTE AND THE TWO WERE  
JOINED, SWEARING VENGEANCE ON SPIDER-MAN AND  
BECOMING THE SINGULAR ENTITY CALLED...

# VENOM

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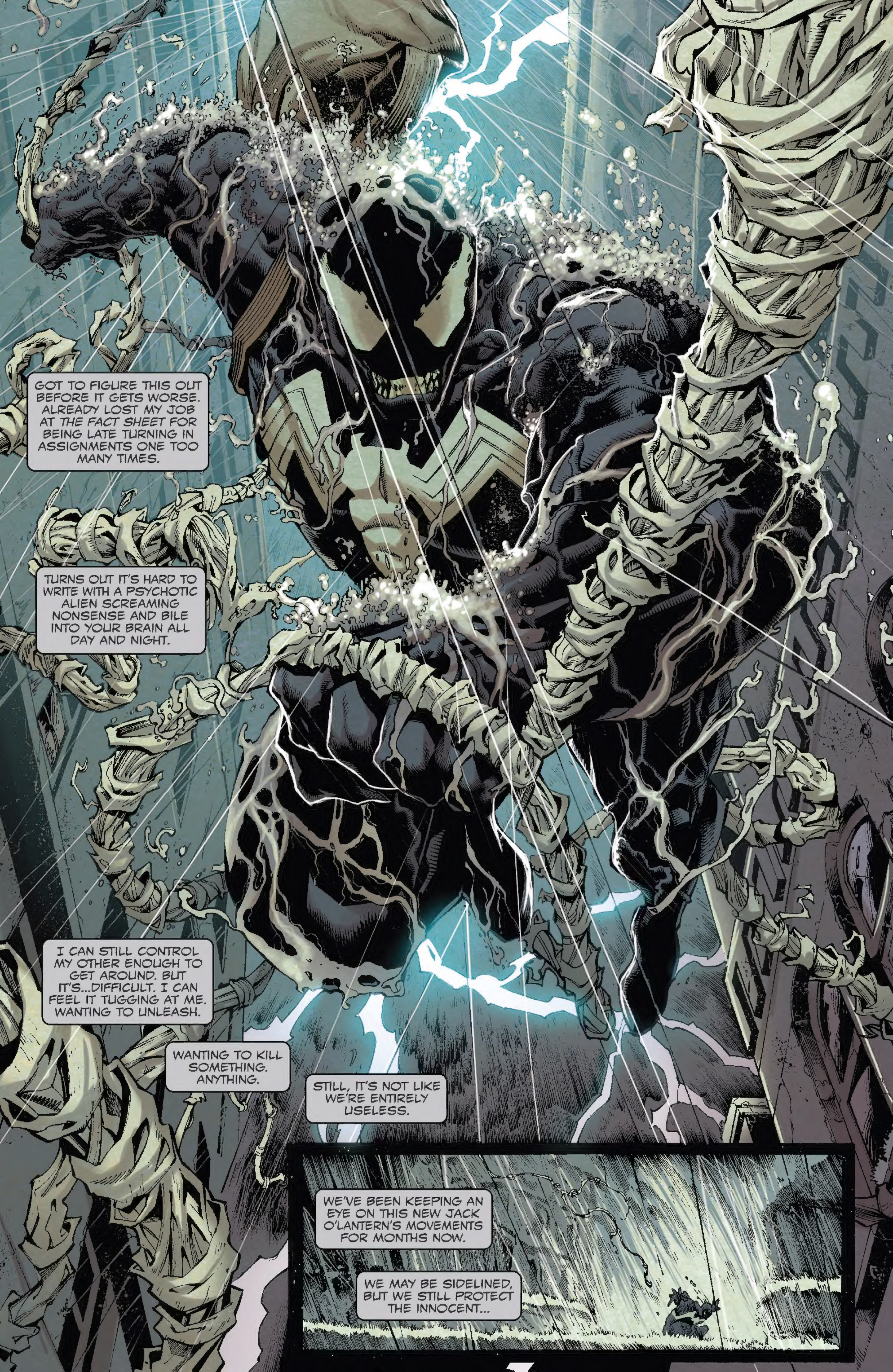
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GOT TO FIGURE THIS OUT  
BEFORE IT GETS WORSE.  
ALREADY LOST MY JOB  
AT THE FACT SHEET FOR  
BEING LATE TURNING IN  
ASSIGNMENTS ONE TOO  
MANY TIMES.

TURNS OUT IT'S HARD TO  
WRITE WITH A PSYCHOTIC  
ALIEN SCREAMING  
NONSENSE AND BILE  
INTO YOUR BRAIN ALL  
DAY AND NIGHT.

I CAN STILL CONTROL  
MY OTHER ENOUGH TO  
GET AROUND. BUT  
IT'S...DIFFICULT. I CAN  
FEEL IT TUGGING AT ME.  
WANTING TO UNLEASH.

WANTING TO KILL  
SOMETHING.  
ANYTHING.

STILL, IT'S NOT LIKE  
WE'RE ENTIRELY  
USELESS.

WE'VE BEEN KEEPING AN  
EYE ON THIS NEW JACK  
O'LANTERN'S MOVEMENTS  
FOR MONTHS NOW.

WE MAY BE SIDELINED,  
BUT WE STILL PROTECT  
THE INNOCENT...



IN OUR OWN WAY...

I'M TELLIN' YOU GUYS, WITH THESE PUPPIES, THE WEB-HEAD AIN'T NEVER GONNA SEE YOU COMIN'. THIS IS NORMAN OSBORN'S PRIVATE STOCK!

PRIMO STUFF! HIGH-TECH! SHORT-CIRCUITS WHATEVER WEIRDO SENSE HE'S GOT THAT LETS HIM KNOW WE'S COMIN'!

A large, detailed comic book panel showing Spider-Man, the Hulk, and Iron Man in a destroyed office. Spider-Man is on the left, holding a flaming object. The Hulk is in the center, and Iron Man is on the right. A large, stylized cat head is in the foreground on the left. Speech bubbles contain dialogue. The background shows a destroyed office with broken windows and debris.

I DONT REMEMBER OSBORN EVER USING MACHINE GUNS, JACK O'LANTERN...

WHAT? OF COURSE HE DID. ON HIS BIG...GLIDER THING. CHOCK-FULL OF MACHINE GUNS. I'M TELLIN' YOU.

YOU KNOW, YOU MIGHT JUST BE THE DUMBEST GUY TO EVER WEAR THAT STUPID HALLOWEEN COSTUME.

WHAT?! HEY, HEY, HEY! FELLAS, NOW, LET'S NOT ALL LOSE OUR HEADS HERE. I'M SURE WE CAN FIGURE THIS--

THE LIGHTS--?! THE HELL IS THIS, JACK?! THIS AIN'T ME!

FREEZE!

AH, HELL...

SADLY, IT'S NOT US, EITHER.

SADLY, IT'S  
NOT US,  
EITHER.



A BIT ANTICLIMACTIC, I KNOW. USED TO BE WE'D BE IN THERE BREAKING JAWS AND METING OUT JUSTICE WITH A BIG TOOTHY GRIN ON OUR FACE.



# SNAP



THESE DAYS,  
WE'RE JUST  
SPECTATORS.

UNTIL I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT'S  
WRONG WITH MY OTHER, I WON'T  
RISK IT HURTING SOMEONE  
INNOCENT.

FEEL LIKE A COWARD.  
BUT I CAN SELL THESE  
PICTURES, AND WE STILL  
HAVE TO EAT.



I TELL MYSELF  
IF THIS HAD  
GOTTEN OUT OF  
HAND WE WOULD  
HAVE ACTED.  
LUCKILY, IT'S ALL  
UNDER--

HEY!  
HEY, NO!  
FREEZE!



DAMN.



# BLAM BLAM

GOT MY  
GUN! GET HI--  
AGH!



AND JUST LIKE THAT, I'M A PASSENGER. MY BODY NO LONGER BELONGS TO ME.

I TRY  
PLEADING WITH  
MY OTHER,  
TRY CALMING  
IT DOWN.

IN REPLY, I HEAR  
ONLY SCREAMING.  
AND LAUGHTER.

GAH!

KRAK

HE  
BEGS.  
HE'S  
RIGHT  
TO.

AH-ALL RIGHT!  
ALL RIGHT, I GIVE!  
LOOK, I AIN'T EVEN THE  
REAL JACK O' LANTERN,  
MAN! I JUST FOUND THIS  
GEAR AND...AND I'M  
SORRY! JU'S-JUST  
DON'T--

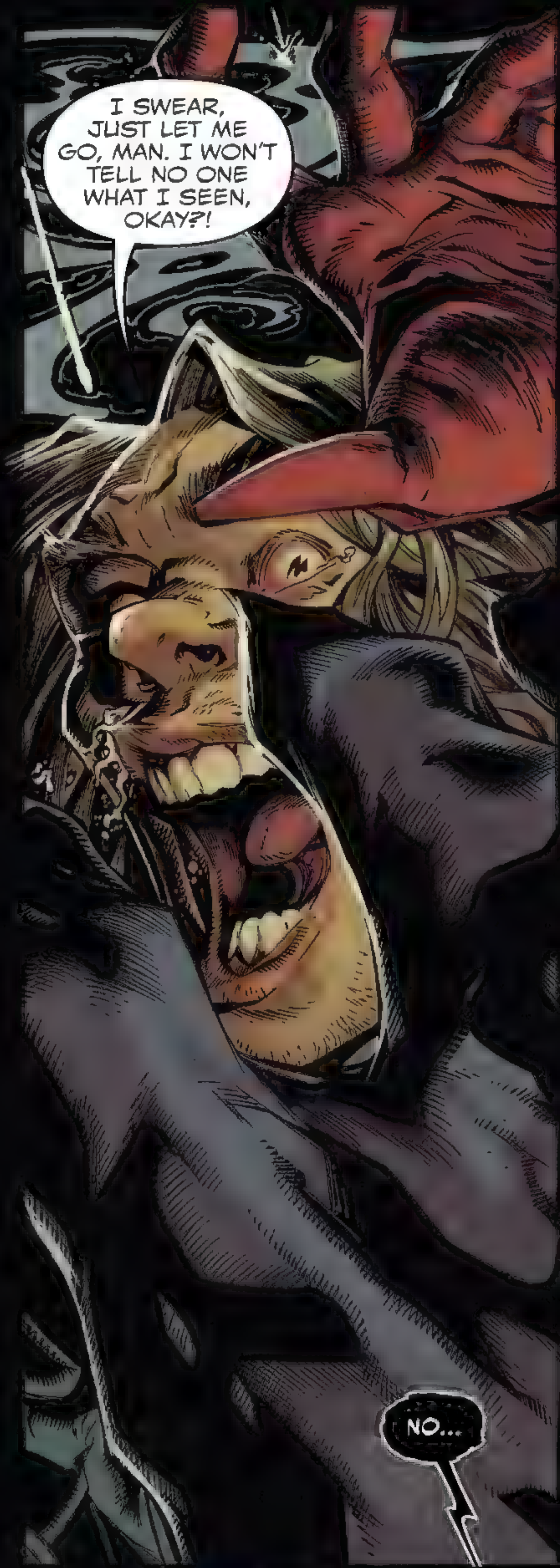
AH,  
GOD...IT'S YOU...  
IT'S...

BUT THIS  
ISN'T ME.

KRAKA BOOM

AND VENOM  
ISN'T LISTENING.





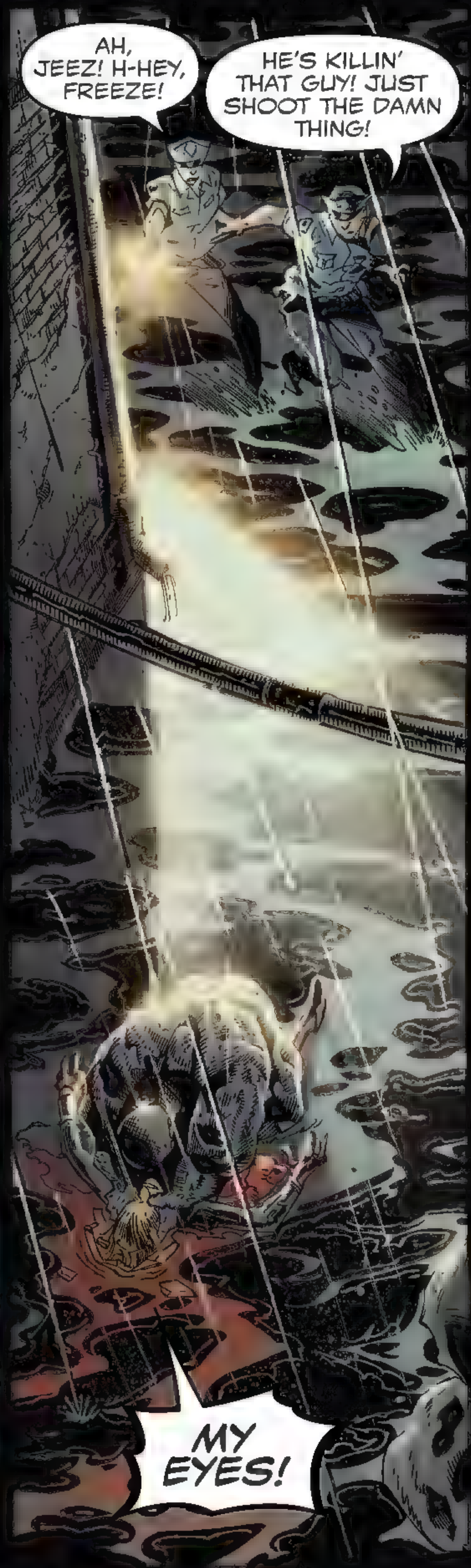
I SWEAR,  
JUST LET ME  
GO, MAN. I WON'T  
TELL NO ONE  
WHAT I SEEN,  
OKAY?!

NO...



YOU  
WON'T.

GRAAH!



AH,  
JEEZ! H-HEY,  
FREEZE!

HE'S KILLIN'  
THAT GUY! JUST  
SHOOT THE DAMN  
THING!

MY  
EYES!



NO! NO, YOU WILL  
NOT HURT THESE  
OFFICERS!

CAN YOU HEAR  
ME IN HERE?!  
THESE MEN ARE  
INNOCENT!

LISTEN  
TO ME!



BLAM  
BLAM



SAY  
SOMETHING!



შენ ხარ  
განადგომი



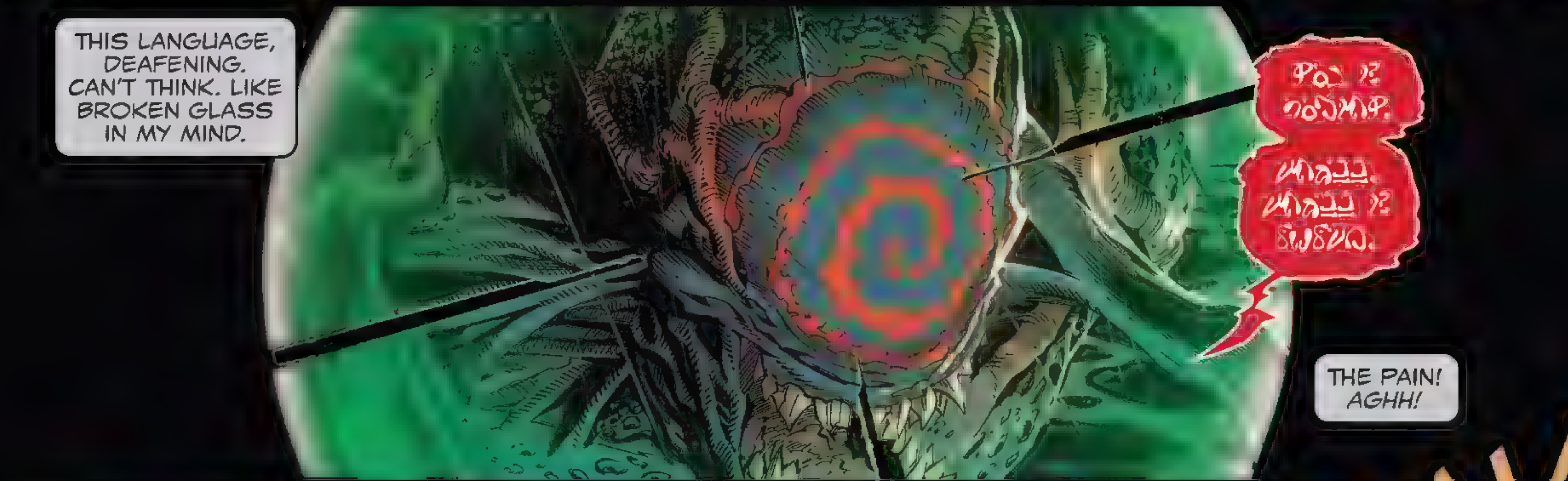




I'M  
DROWNING.

FALLING DEEPER  
AND DEEPER  
INSIDE OF THIS...  
THING. THIS  
MONSTER THAT  
USED TO BE US.

WHAT  
THE @#% IS  
THAT?!



THIS LANGUAGE,  
DEAFENING.  
CAN'T THINK. LIKE  
BROKEN GLASS  
IN MY MIND.

פֶּן יֵשׁ  
נוֹסֵמִי.  
מִיָּדָה  
מִיָּדָה יֵשׁ  
שְׂוֹשְׁלִי.

THE PAIN!  
AGHH!



SPAK

KRAK



BEEP  
BEEP

בְּבִיבָה  
יֵשׁ-?!

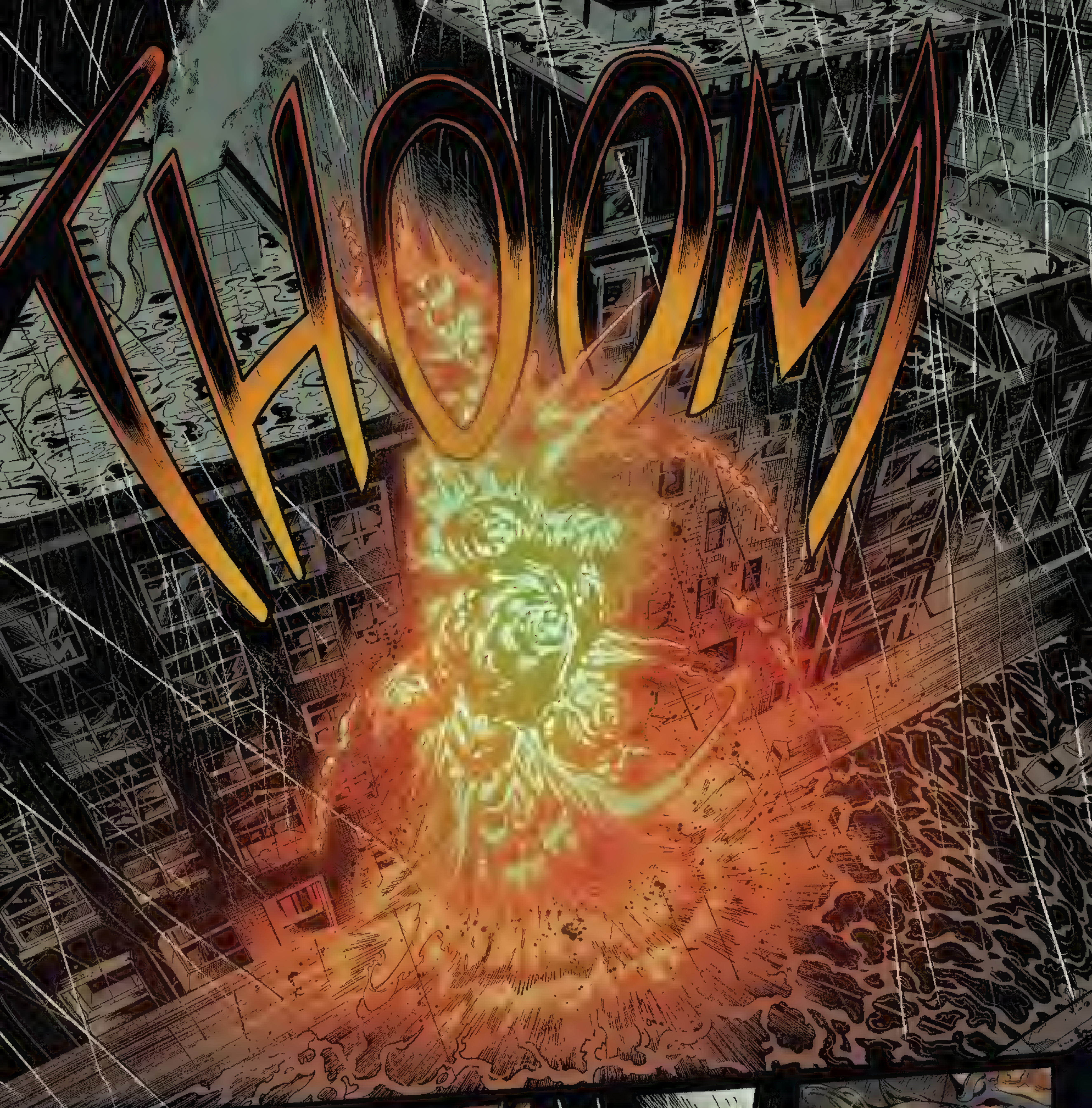
GOD, PLEASE!  
PLEASE...SOMEONE,  
BEFORE IT'S TOO  
LATE...



CLIK

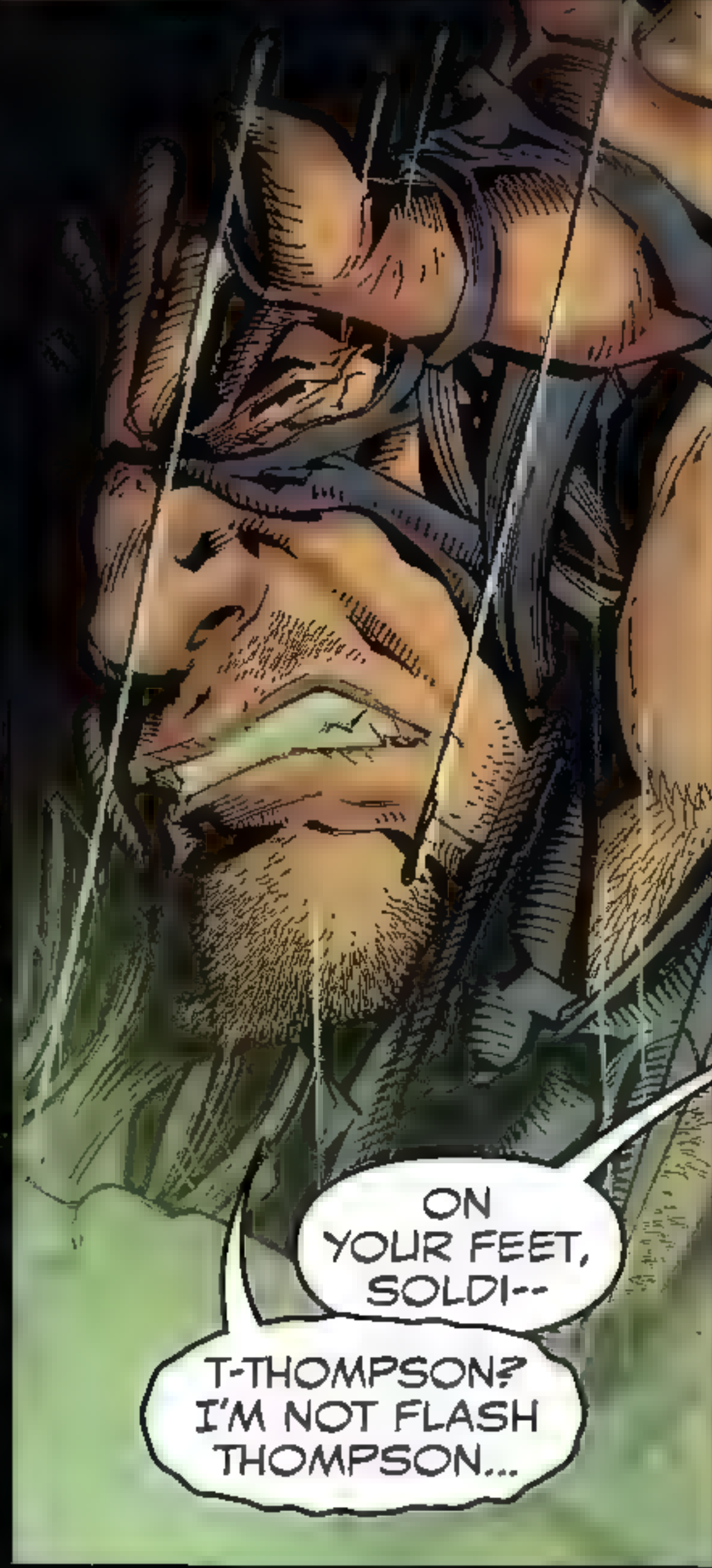
...KILL  
US.





WHA...WHERE...  
WHAT HAPPENED?  
THOSE OFFICERS...  
ARE THEY--

THEY'RE FINE,  
THOMPSON. THEY'LL  
BE BLIND FOR ANOTHER  
FEW MINUTES OR SO, SO  
YOU AND I GOTTA  
HUSTLE.



ON  
YOUR FEET,  
SOLDI--

T-THOMPSON?  
I'M NOT FLASH  
THOMPSON...



YOU AIN'T?

WELL, HELL, THAT'S  
DISAPPOINTING.



I GUESS  
YOU'LL HAVE  
TO DO.



EDDIE.

EDDIE,  
WAKE UP.

I COME TO IN  
DARKNESS.

IT HURTS,  
EDDIE.

KILL HIM.

END THIS.  
END IT ALL.

DARKNESS, PAIN...

LOUD! HURTS!

WE SHOULD  
LEAVE YOU.

WORTHLESS.

...AND  
NOISE.

ANTI-PSYCHOTICS WEARING OFF. AMPS  
PUTTING OUT LOW-FREQUENCY BASS NOTES  
ONLY MY OTHER CAN HEAR. NOT ENOUGH TO  
KILL, BUT ENOUGH TO KEEP IT AT BAY.

SHUT  
UP!

ADD THAT TO THE BLAST  
FURNACE AT MY BACK,  
AND IT SENDS A HELL  
OF A MESSAGE...

HA! WELL,  
GOOD MORNING,  
SUNSHINE!

HOT  
ENOUGH FOR  
YA?

THIS GUY  
KNOWS HIS  
WAY AROUND  
A SYMBIOTE.





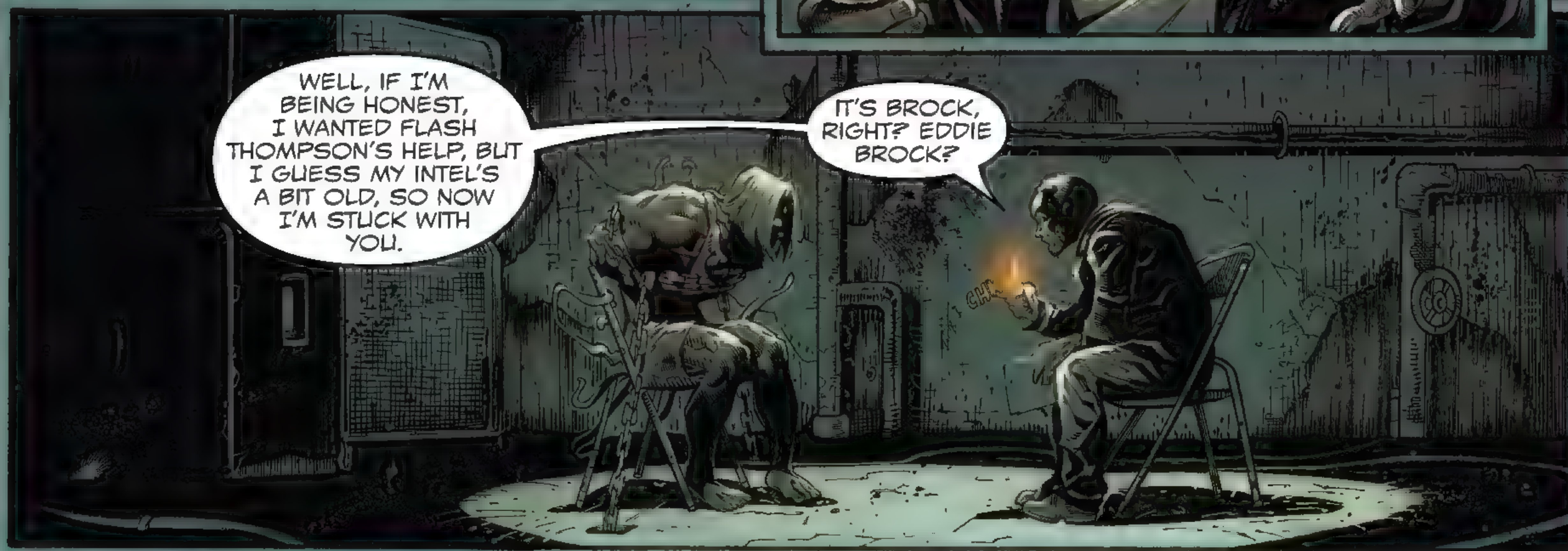
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS? WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?



ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. I AIN'T ONE TO PLAY GAMES. SO I'LL PUT IT TO YOU STRAIGHT, SON.

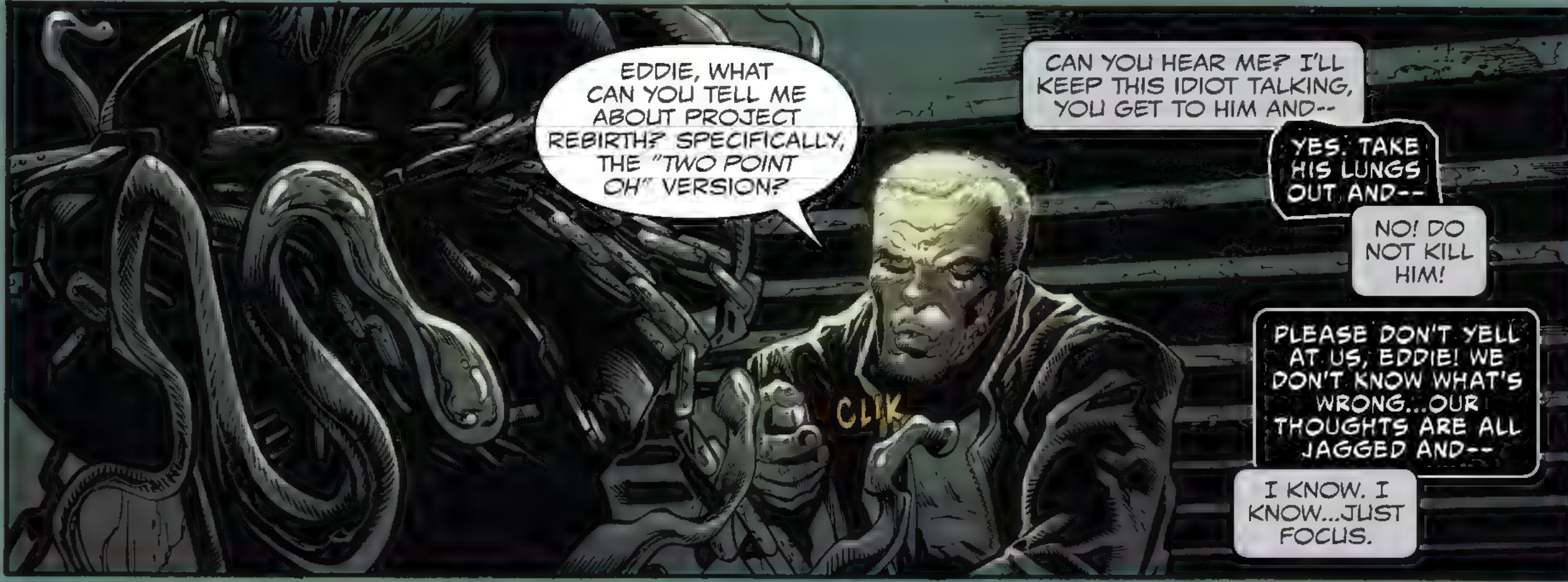
I NEED YOUR HELP.

GLIK



WELL, IF I'M BEING HONEST, I WANTED FLASH THOMPSON'S HELP, BUT I GUESS MY INTEL'S A BIT OLD, SO NOW I'M STUCK WITH YOU.

IT'S BROCK, RIGHT? EDDIE BROCK?



EDDIE, WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT PROJECT REBIRTH? SPECIFICALLY, THE "TWO POINT OH" VERSION?

CAN YOU HEAR ME? I'LL KEEP THIS IDIOT TALKING, YOU GET TO HIM AND--

YES. TAKE HIS LUNGS OUT AND--

NO! DO NOT KILL HIM!

PLEASE DON'T YELL AT US, EDDIE! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG...OUR THOUGHTS ARE ALL JAGGED AND--

I KNOW. I KNOW...JUST FOCUS.

CLIK



PROJECT REBIRTH. YEAH, THE MILITARY PROGRAM THAT MADE **CAPTAIN AMERICA** AND NOTHING ELSE GOOD.

FEW YEARS BACK THEY KICKED IT UP AGAIN, ONLY THIS TIME USING MY OTHER.

YOUR WHAT?

MY... SYMBIOTE. THE ALIEN THAT'S--



OH, HAH.  
OKAY, YEAH. I  
GET IT. NEVER HEARD  
IT CALLED THAT  
BEFORE.

GO ON...

THAT'S  
RIGHT. KEEP  
LAUGHING,  
@#%&@.

NOT MUCH  
ELSE TO TELL.  
THEY BONDED MY...  
SUIT WITH FLASH  
THOMPSON TO CREATE  
SOME KINDA NEW  
SUPER-SOLDIER  
PROG--

NOPE.  
INCORRECT.  
NOT "NEW,"  
SON.

LATEST.

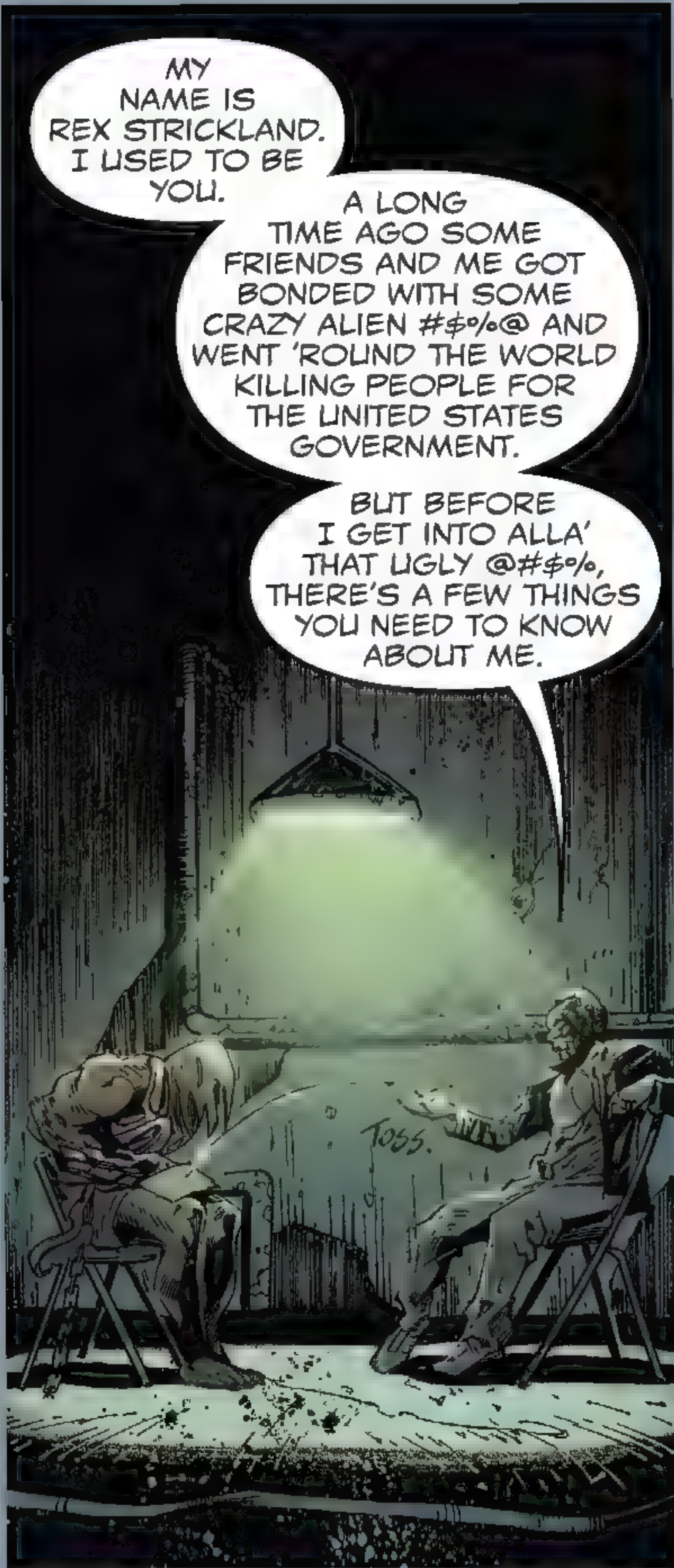
SURPRISED?

DON'T BE.

W-WHAT?

YOU AIN'T  
THE FIRST.  
NEITHER WAS  
FLASH. NOT  
BY A LONG  
DAMN  
MILE.





MY NAME IS REX STRICKLAND. I USED TO BE YOU.

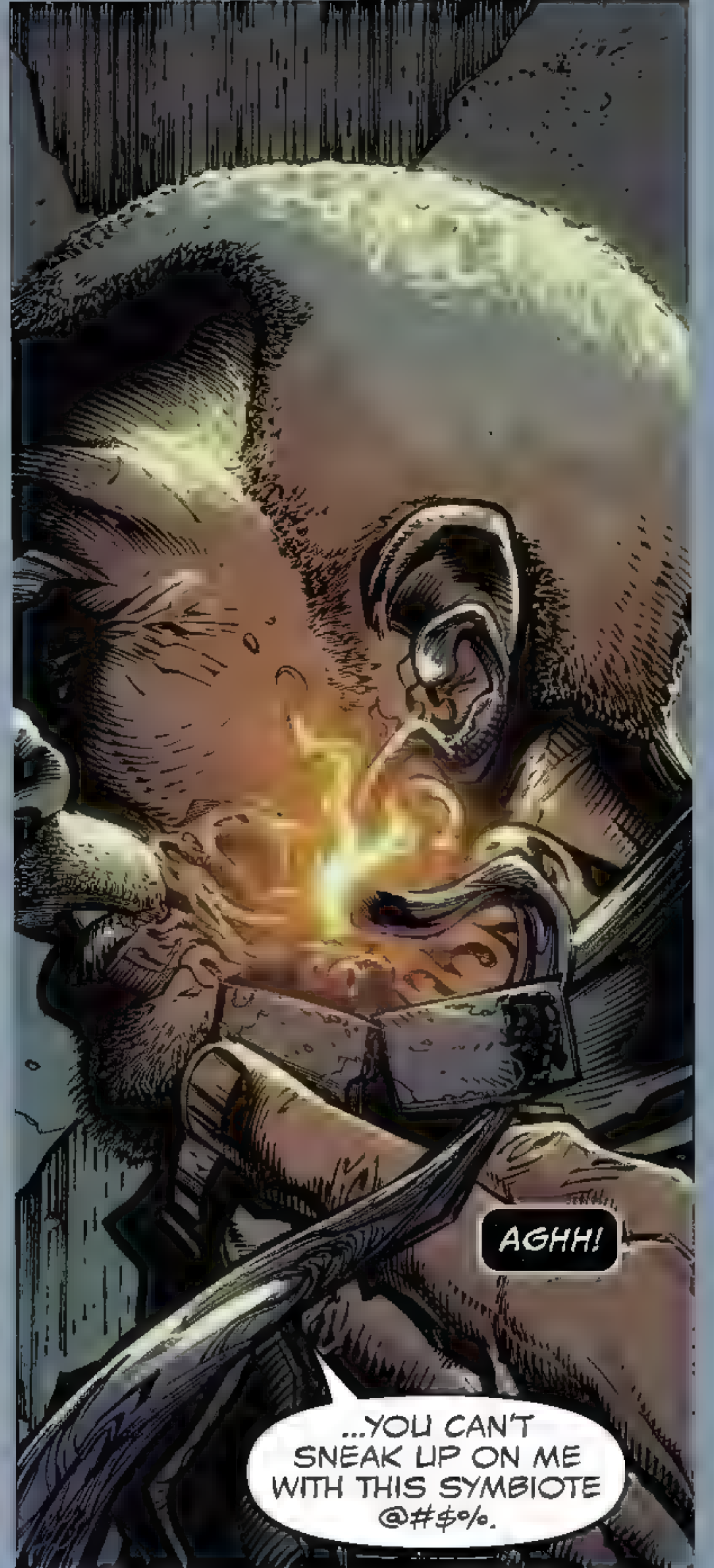
A LONG TIME AGO SOME FRIENDS AND ME GOT BONDED WITH SOME CRAZY ALIEN @#%& AND WENT 'ROUND THE WORLD KILLING PEOPLE FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

BUT BEFORE I GET INTO ALLA' THAT UGLY @#%&, THERE'S A FEW THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ME.



FIRST AND FOREMOST...

CHK



AGHH!

...YOU CAN'T SNEAK UP ON ME WITH THIS SYMBIOTE @#%&.



BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU I'VE FORGOTTEN MORE ABOUT THOSE THINGS THAN YOU WILL EVER KNOW.

HEH... YOU THINK SO, HUH?

CARE TO PUT IT TO THE TEST? HERE, I'LL GO FIRST. WE'LL START EASY.



YOUR SYMBIOTE THERE. YOUR... WHAT'D YOU CALL IT?

YOUR "OTHER"?

Y'ALL BEEN TOGETHER OFF AND ON FOR A LONG TIME NOW, HUH? TELL ME THIS...



WHAT'S ITS NAME?





I...  
IT'S...I DIDN'T  
THINK...

HOW  
ABOUT THIS?  
HOW OLD IS  
IT?

WHAT DOES IT  
LIKE TO EAT? IDEAL  
TEMPERATURE?

DO YOU  
KNOW HOW MANY  
OTHERS IT'S BEEN  
BONDED TO? I MEAN BEFORE  
IT CAME TO THIS **PLANET**.  
DOES IT EVEN PREFER  
HUMANS?

DO YOU  
AGE WHEN YOU  
WEAR IT? BECAUSE  
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU  
NOTICED, BUT I DON'T  
EXACTLY LOOK MY  
YEARS.

HONESTLY...  
DO YOU KNOW  
ANYTHING ABOUT THAT  
THING BESIDES BIG TEETH  
AND FLASHY SPIDER  
SYMBOLS?



BECAUSE  
I DO. AND I CAN  
TEACH YOU. I CAN  
FIX YOU.

WHO SAYS  
WE NEED TO BE  
**FIXED**?

HAD ANY  
**NIGHTMARES**  
LATELY,  
EDDIE?



...

WHAT  
DO YOU  
WANT?

I GOT  
OUT OF THE  
SYM-SOLDIER PROGRAM A  
LONG TIME AGO. BECAME  
A BONAFAIDE AGENT OF  
S.H.I.E.L.D. AFTER  
THAT...

MY  
PARTNERS...  
WELL, THEY  
WEREN'T SO  
LUCKY.



THEY WENT  
ON TOO MANY MISSIONS.  
GOT THEMSELVES PERMANENTLY  
BONDED WITH THEIR ALIENS. AND, WELL...  
GOVERNMENT DIDN'T HAVE MUCH  
USE FOR 'EM AFTER THEY ALL  
**WENT INSANE.**

SO THEY  
PUT 'EM ON  
ICE.





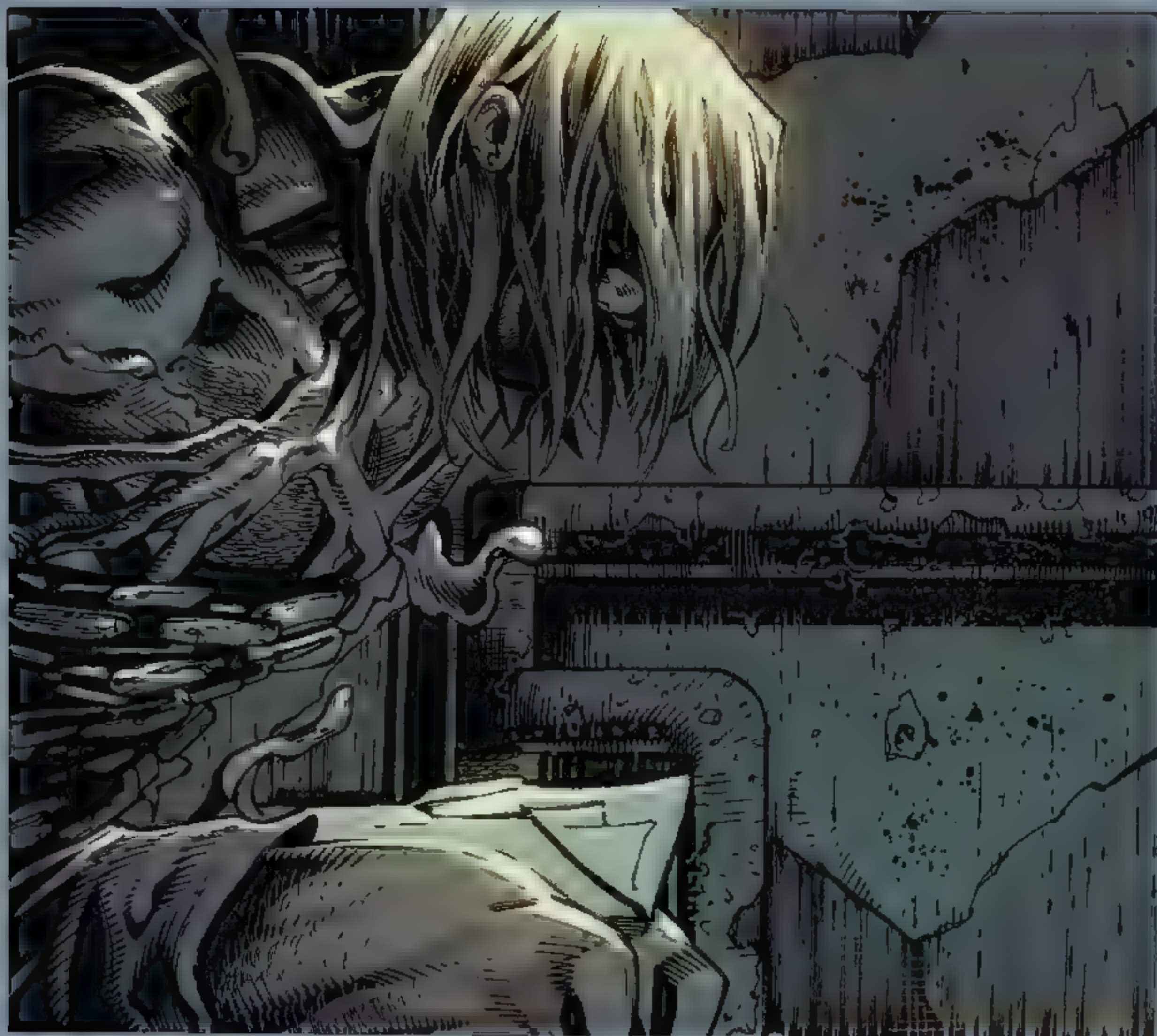
AND NOW,  
WITH S.H.I.E.L.D.  
DISBANDED, MY MEN  
ARE BEING MOVED TO  
ONE OF THOSE FANCY NEW  
**BLACK BOX SITES**  
S.H.I.E.L.D. USES TO  
STORE ALL OF THEIR  
MISTAKES.

THEY'RE  
TAKING THEM  
THERE TO BE  
DESTROYED,  
EDDIE.



THOSE  
ARE GOOD  
MEN.

I...I CAN'T  
LET THEIR STORY  
END THAT WAY.



THE  
SYMBIOTES  
YOU ALL  
WORE...


WHERE  
DID THEY COME  
FROM?

THAT'S A  
DAMN GOOD  
QUESTION,  
SON.



YOU  
WANNA HELP  
ME FIND THE  
ANSWER?





YES.

YES,  
WE DO.

REX GIVES US THE COORDINATES FOR  
AN UNDERGROUND HIGHWAY SYSTEM  
USED BY S.H.I.E.L.D. TO TRANSPORT  
THEIR BLACK OPS NIGHTMARES.

WE'LL RESCUE  
THESE MEN.

GET THE  
ANSWERS WE  
NEED TO FIX  
MY OTHER...

...AND THEN  
WE'LL KILL EVERY  
SINGLE SOUL  
WHO PUT THIS  
ALL IN MOTION.






BUT FIRST THINGS FIRST. THE TRANSPORT RIGS ARE AUTOMATED. AND SUPPOSEDLY IMPENETRABLE.

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.

BLACKHAT TWO, YOU SEEING THIS? LOOKS LIKE WE GOT ANOTHER BUM ON THE TRACKS IN FRONT OF US.



THE SUPPORT TRUCKS ARE THE REAL PROBLEM.

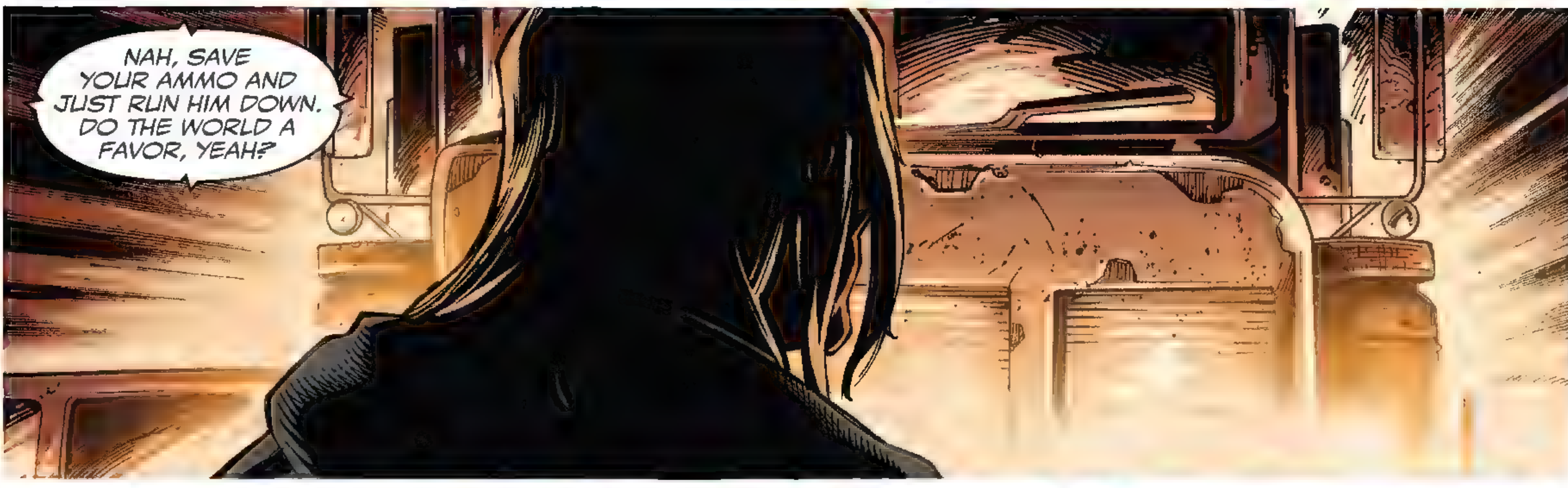
HEAVILY ARMED. INCREDIBLY SOPHISTICATED.

AND PILOTED BY INNOCENT, IF NOT BONE-DUMB, MEN.


HOW DO THESE GUYS KEEP GETTING DOWN HERE?

AH, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS WITH RATS AND COCKROACHES...THEY GET EVERYWHERE.

YOU COLD, MAN. WHAT SHOULD WE DO? CLEAR THE TRACK?

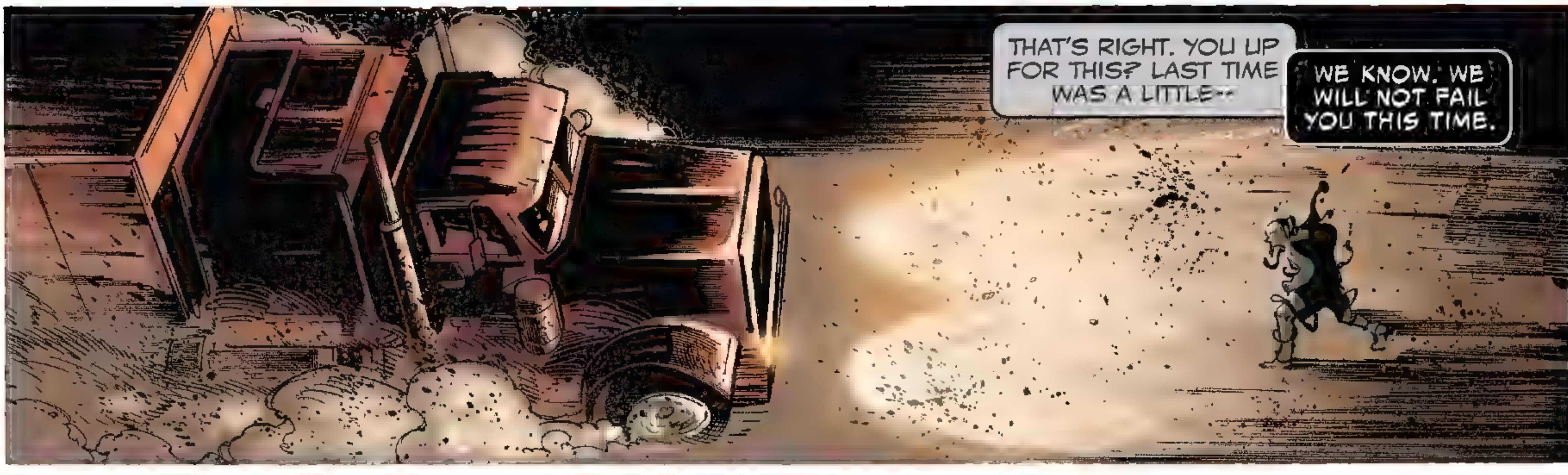


NAH, SAVE YOUR AMMO AND JUST RUN HIM DOWN. DO THE WORLD A FAVOR, YEAH?



YOU HEAR THAT?

YES, EDDIE. BAD MEN.



THAT'S RIGHT. YOU UP FOR THIS? LAST TIME WAS A LITTLE--

WE KNOW. WE WILL NOT FAIL YOU THIS TIME.



WE'RE FEELING  
MUCH **STRONGER**  
NOW.

KRAWWH





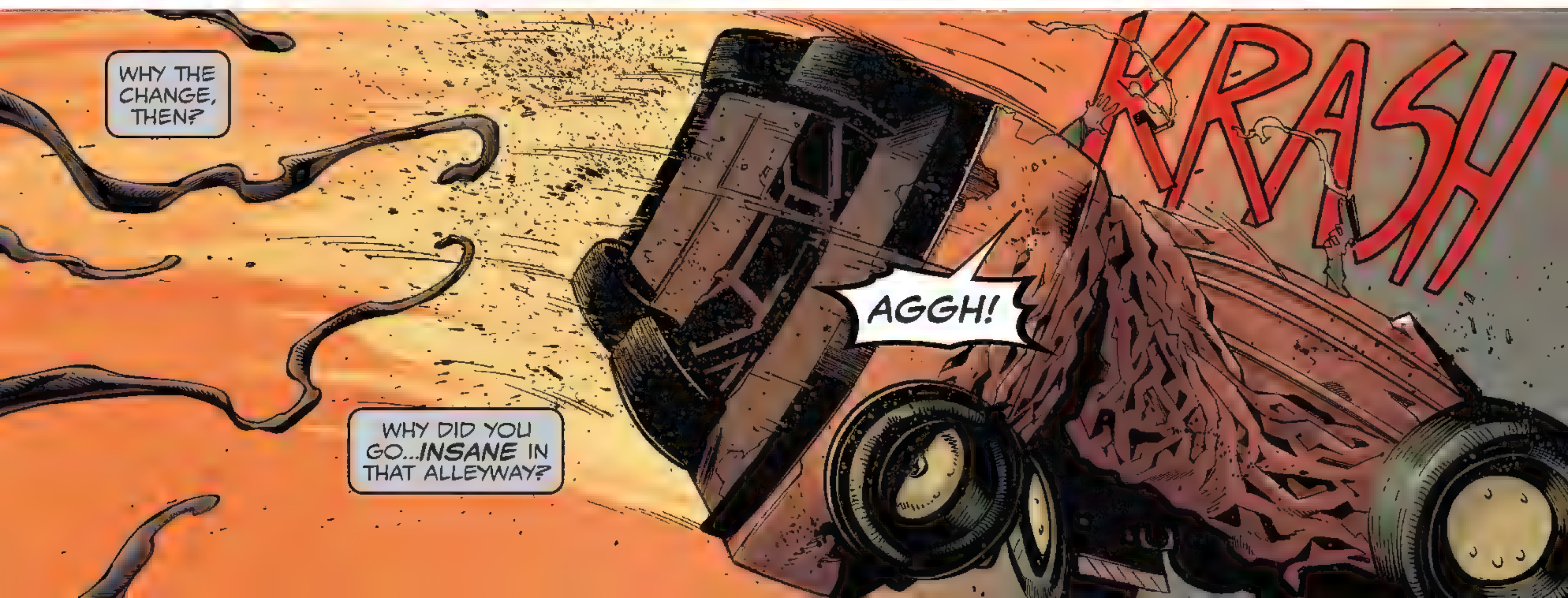
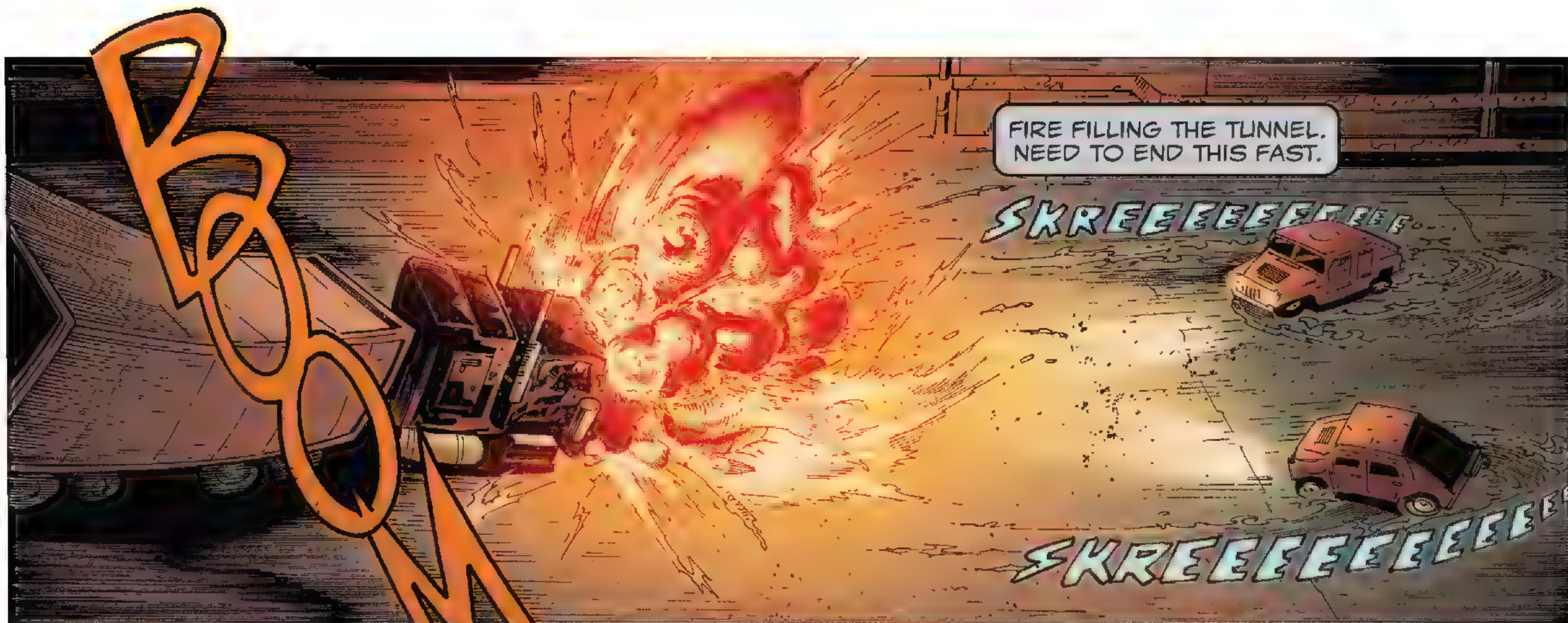




FIGURE IT  
OUT LATER.

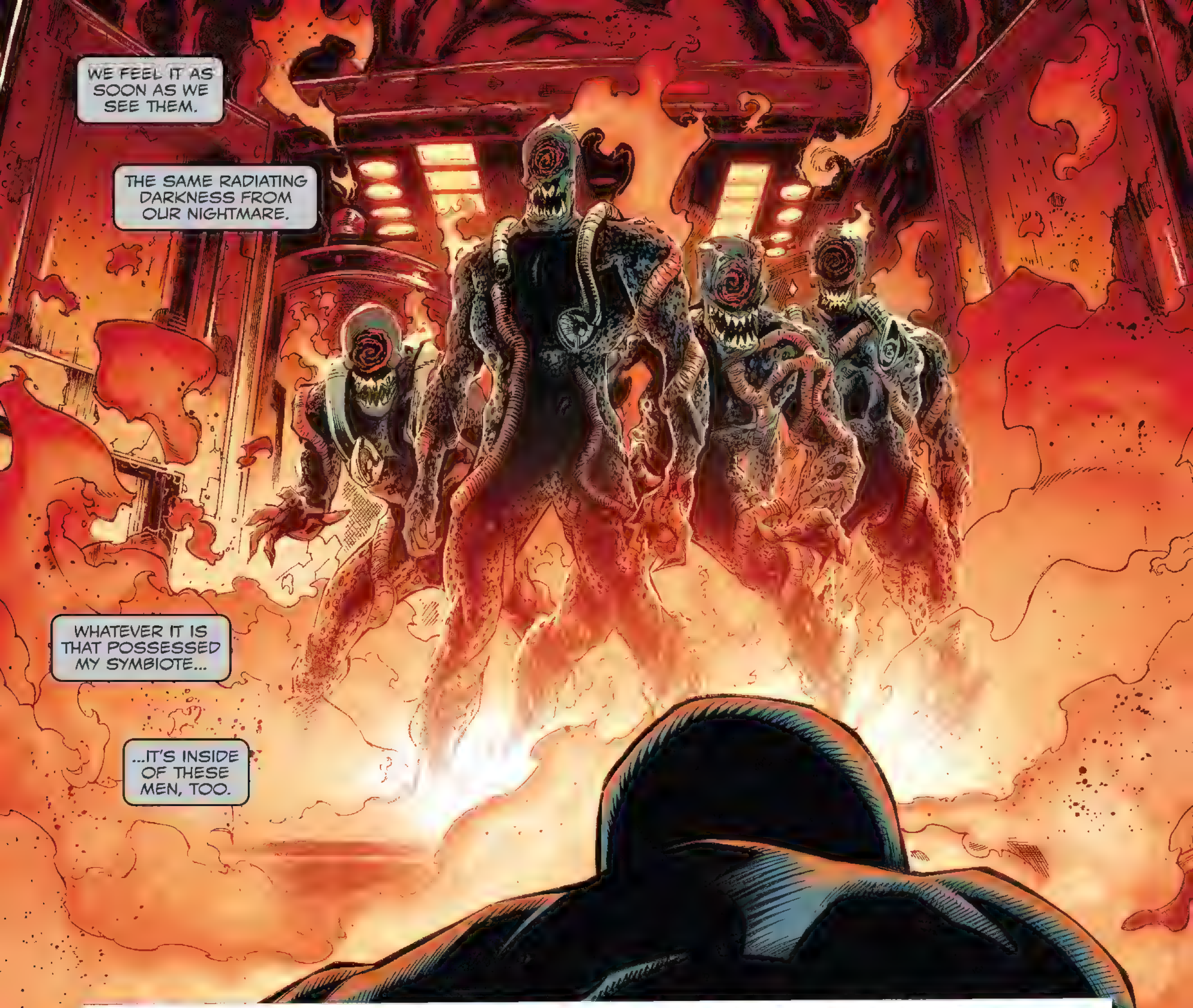
CAME HERE  
FOR A  
REASON.

NEED TO GET THESE POOR  
MEN TO SAFETY. GOD  
KNOWS WHAT'S BEEN DONE  
TO THEM BY THE GOV--



NO...





WE FEEL IT AS  
SOON AS WE  
SEE THEM.

THE SAME RADIATING  
DARKNESS FROM  
OUR NIGHTMARE.

WHATEVER IT IS  
THAT POSSESSED  
MY SYMBIOTE...

...IT'S INSIDE  
OF THESE  
MEN, TOO.

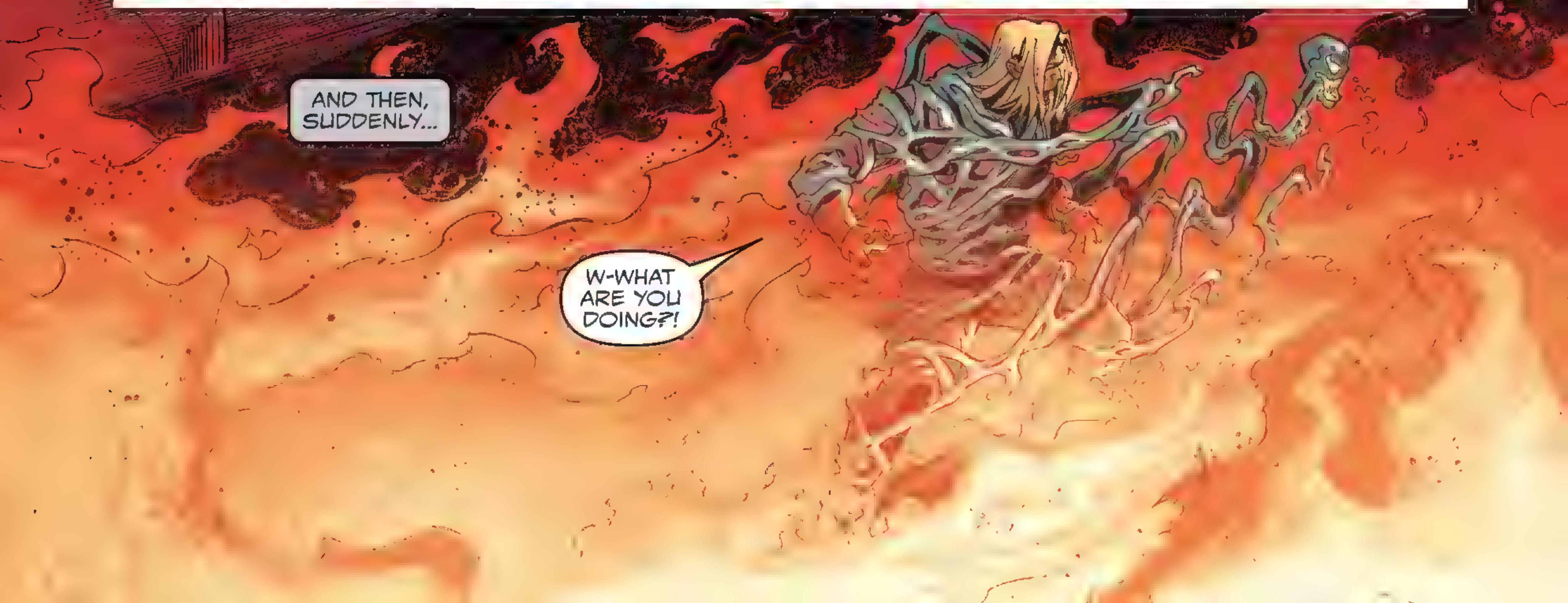


THAT SAME  
ANCIENT VOICE.

POSSIBLY.

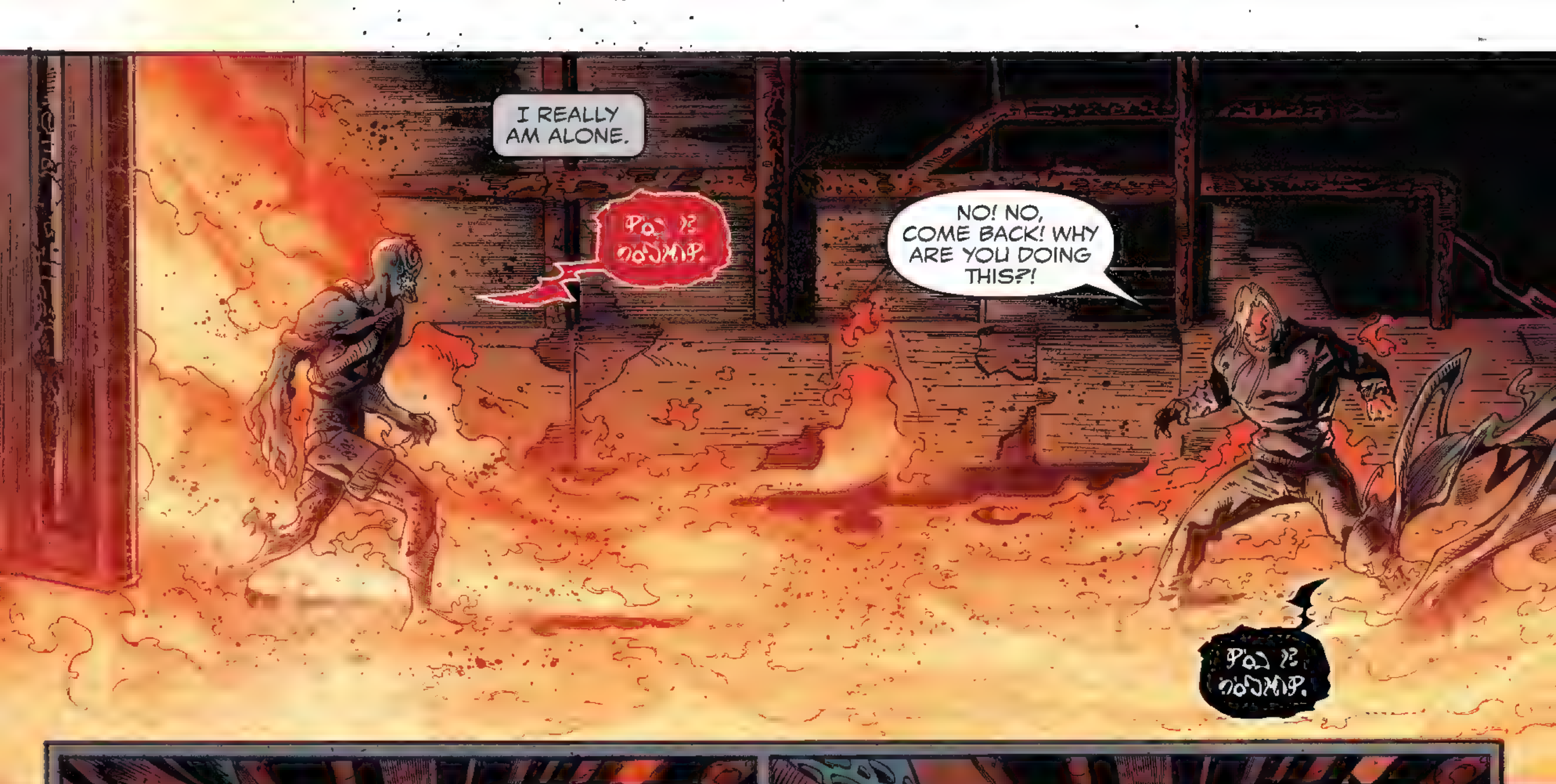
LIKE A BLACK  
TENDRIL WRAPPED  
AROUND MY SPINE.

AND THEN,  
SUDDENLY...



W-WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?!





I REALLY AM ALONE.

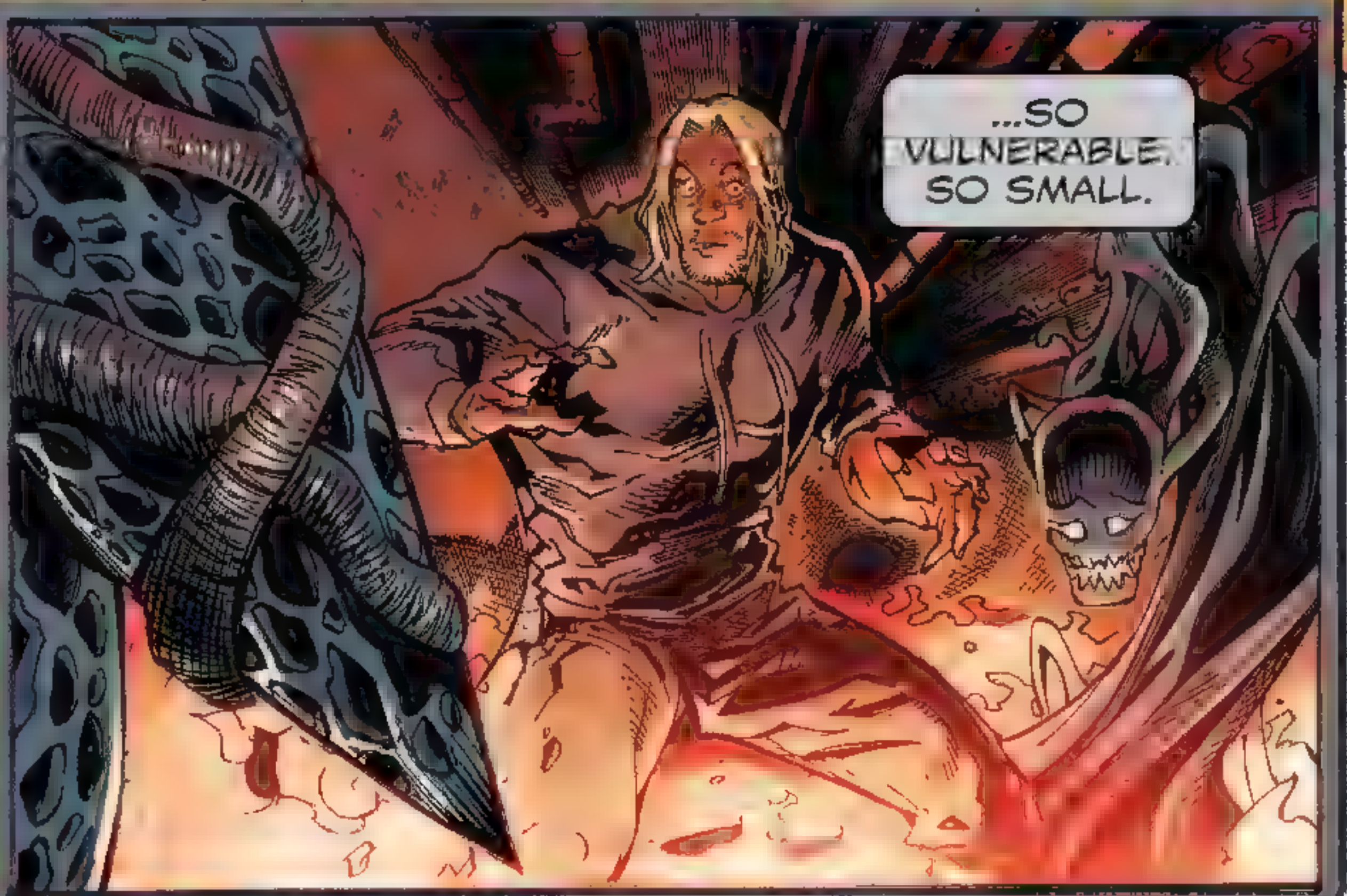
POD 22 NOJMP.

NO! NO, COME BACK! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!

POD 22 NOJMP.



TIME CRAWLS BY. NEVER FELT SO EXPOSED...



...SO VULNERABLE. SO SMALL.



INSTINCTUALLY, I SCREAM TO MY OTHER TO PROTECT ME...

COME ON! COME ON!

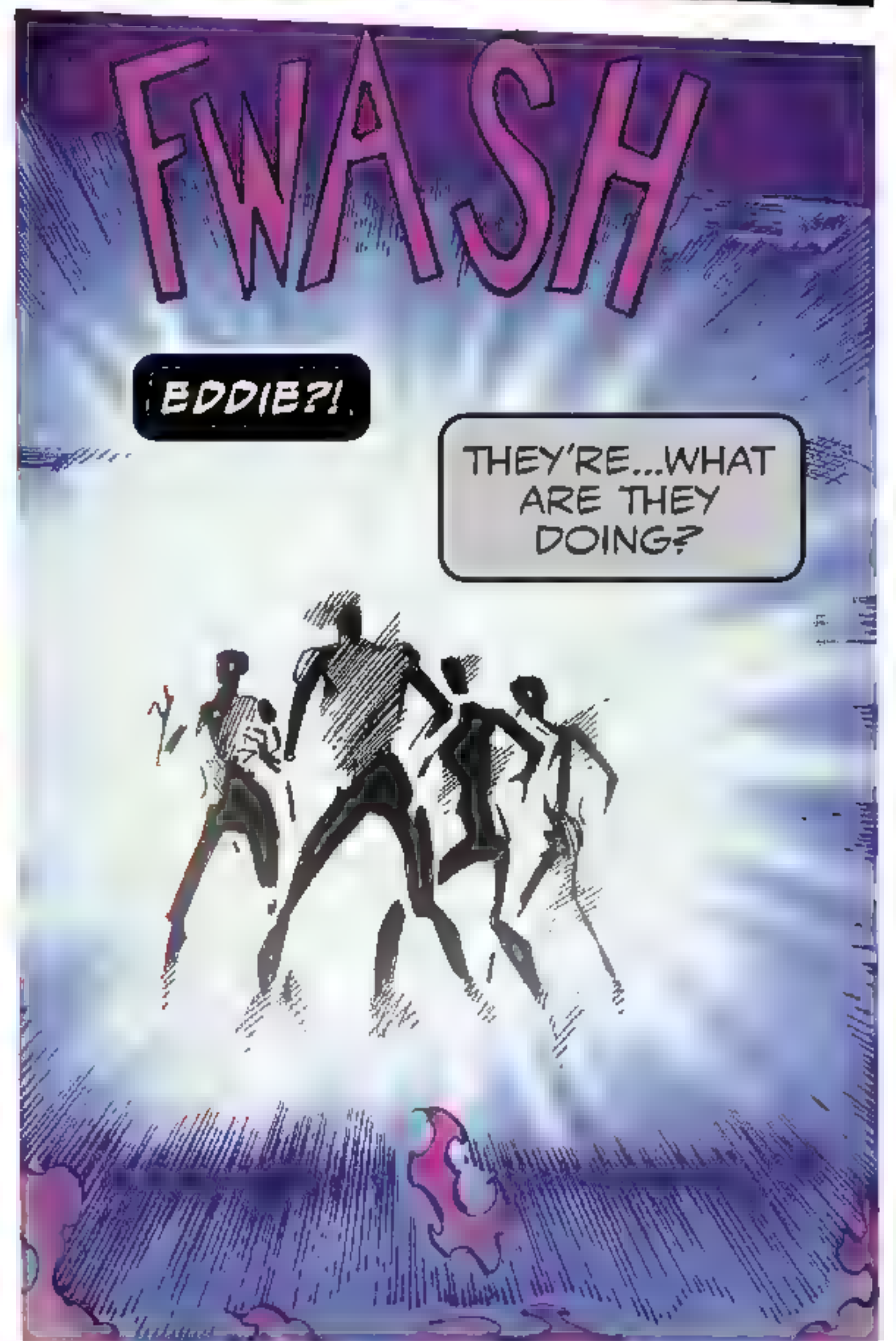
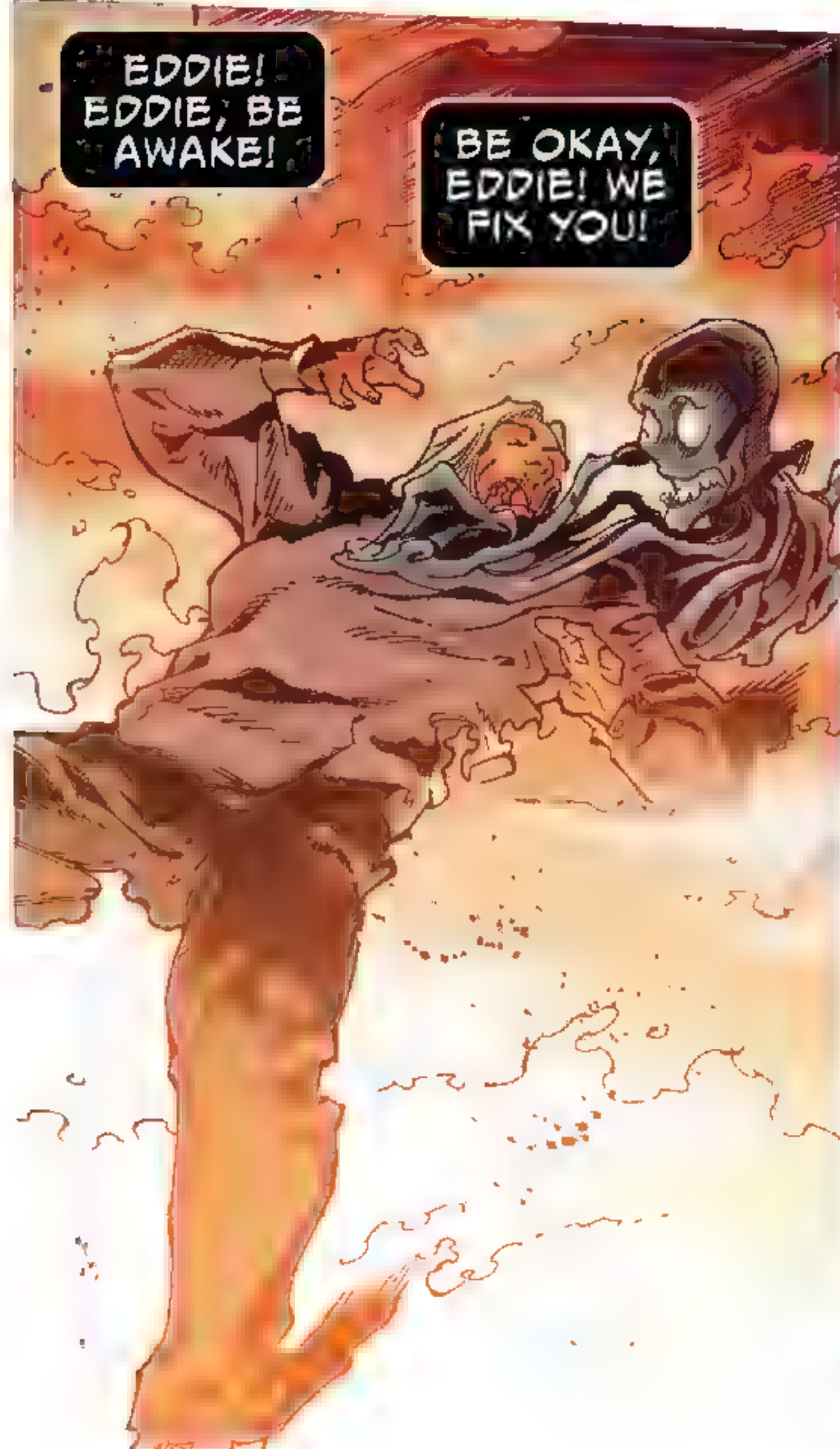


I REALIZE TOO LATE THAT I'M SCREAMING INTO A VOID.

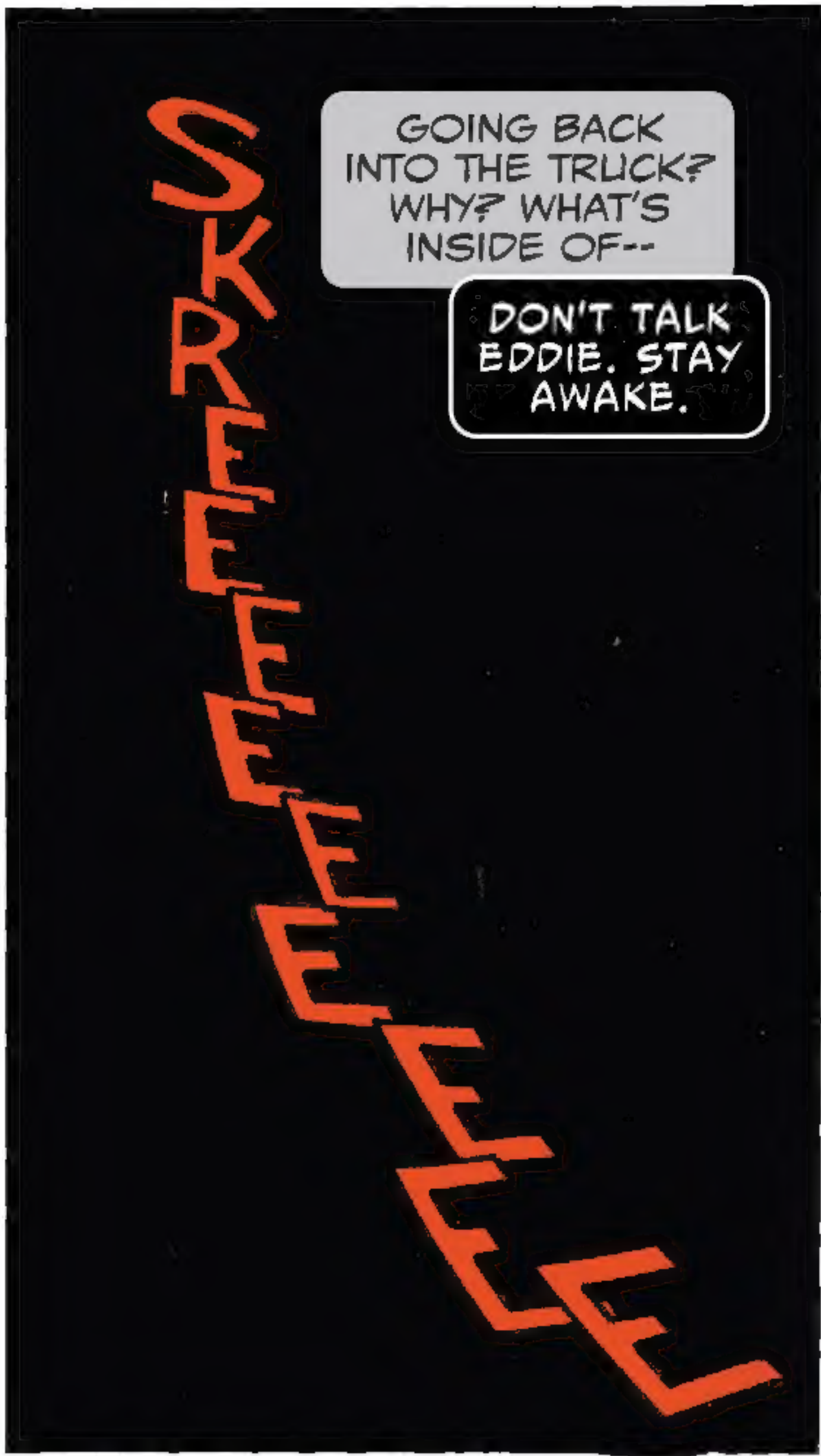
AGGGH!

THAT THE ONLY THING THAT'S COMING...



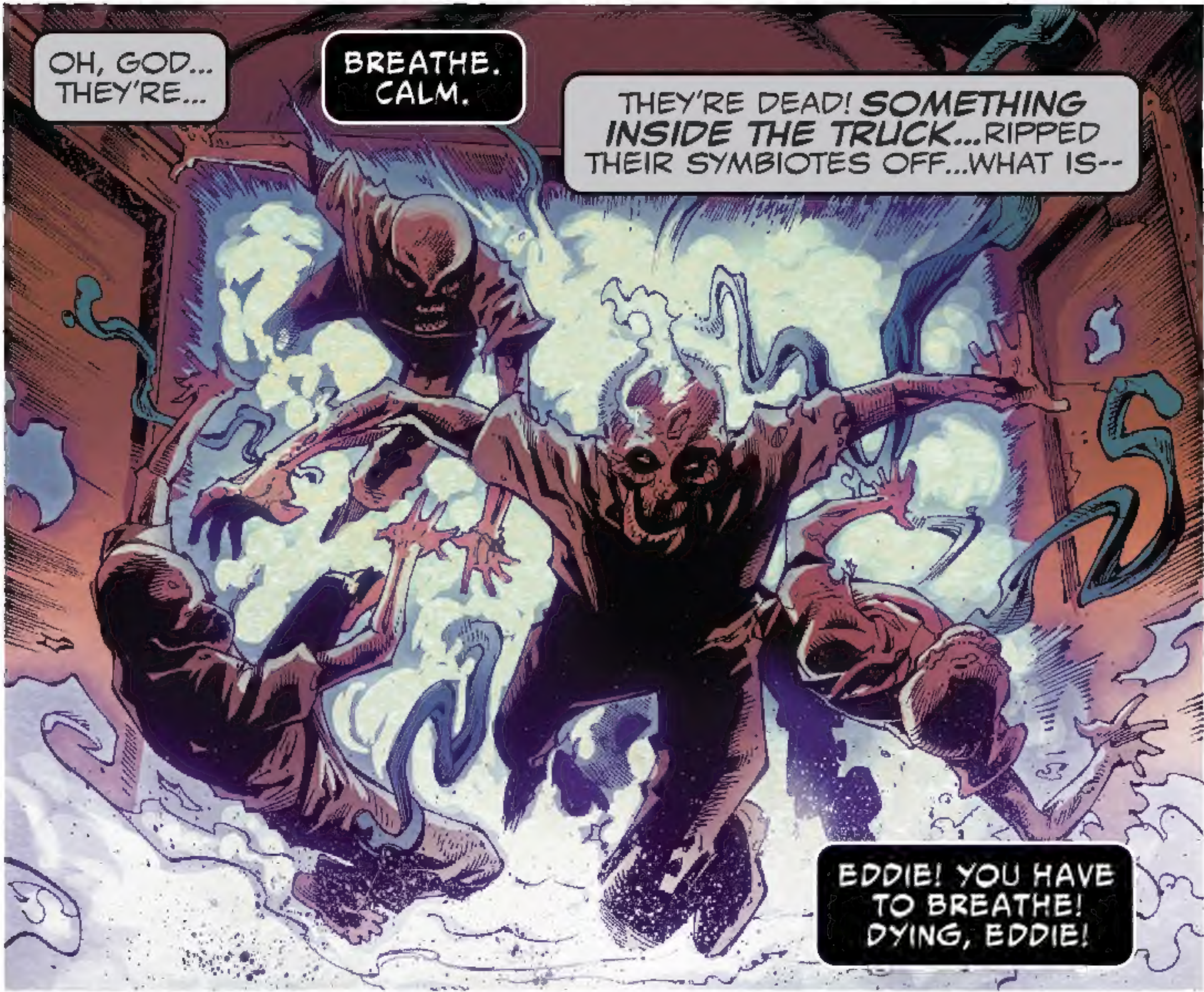






GOING BACK  
INTO THE TRUCK?  
WHY? WHAT'S  
INSIDE OF--

DON'T TALK  
EDDIE. STAY  
AWAKE.



OH, GOD...  
THEY'RE...

BREATHE.  
CALM.

THEY'RE DEAD! **SOMETHING  
INSIDE THE TRUCK...RIPPED  
THEIR SYMBIOTES OFF...WHAT IS--**

EDDIE! YOU HAVE  
TO BREATHE!  
DYING, EDDIE!



BLACKING OUT. THERE'S  
**SOMETHING ELSE IN  
THERE! I HAVE--I HAVE  
TO KNOW...**

THAT  
LANGUAGE...  
YOU SPOKE  
IT, TOO...

WHAT  
DOES IT  
MEAN?

RRRRRUUUUMMMBBLLLLLEE



DEAD LANGUAGE...NOT SPOKEN BY  
MY KIND IN MILLIONS OF YEARS...  
HARD TO TRANSLATE TO--

TELL ME!

YES...  
OKAY...

THEY ARE  
SAYING...

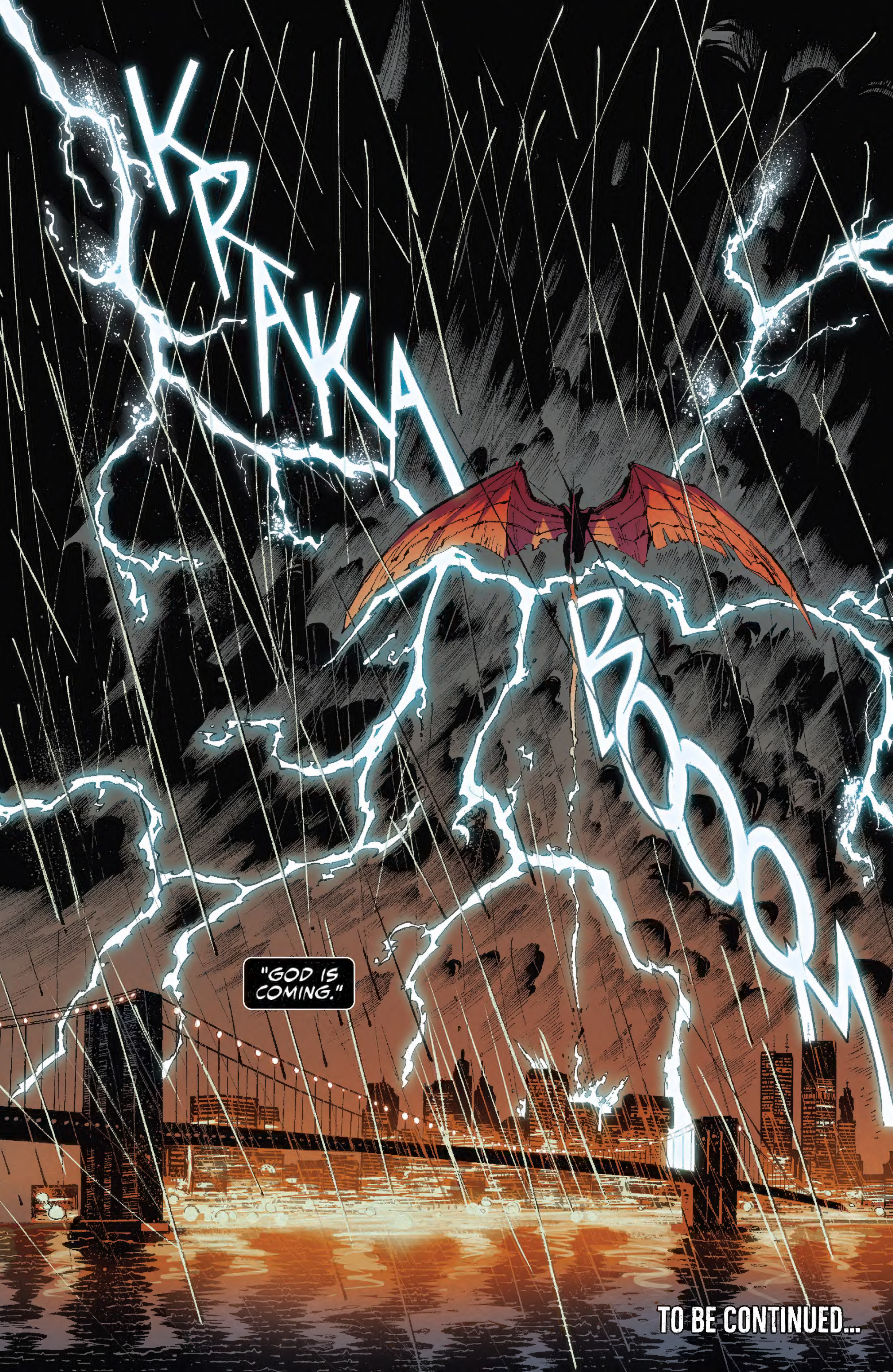
KA-KRACK



DOOM

"GOD..."





"GOD IS  
COMING."

TO BE CONTINUED...





# Eddie's Clubhouse

**TOM GRONEMAN** WITH  
**EMILY NEWCOMEN**  
ASSISTANT EDITORS  
**DEVIN LEWIS** **NICK LOWE**  
EDITOR EXECUTIVE EDITOR  
**C.B. CEBULSKI**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF  
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CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER  
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PRESIDENT  
**ALAN FINE**  
EXEC. PRODUCER

SEND E-MAILS TO [SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM](mailto:SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM) (PLEASE MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!)!

Hello, Venomaniacs! After months of patience, I'm thrilled to welcome you to the newest volume of **VENOM**!

Believe it or not, the planning for this volume started almost a year ago, when we realized the 30th Anniversary of Venom's first appearance was this year! And not just this year, True Believers, this **MONTH**!

It was on May 10th, 1988, that the momentous **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #300 went on sale, and in it, Venom made his full debut and became one of Spider-Man's greatest adversaries adversary to date.

We've been celebrating all year, with a terrific 30 Years of Venom variant program featuring some of the best artists in the biz, and even a whole event dedicated to the wicked web-slinger: **VENOMIZED**. It's a five-issue epic by Cullen Bunn and Iban Coello that sees a whole host of Marvel heroes bonded to klyntar symbiotes. All five issues are on sale now, so if they aren't in your collection, what're you waiting for?! Go get 'em!

And that says nothing of the comics mag you hold in your hands – equal parts love letter and birthday card to the sinister symbiote from creators Donny Cates, Ryan Stegman, J.P. Mayer, Frank Martin and Clayton Cowles.

All it took was a single phone call with Donny for me to know that he was the man for the job. If you've seen any of his interviews online, you already know this, but Donny's got an excitement and enthusiasm for the Marvel Universe that knows no bounds. What really surprised me, though, was that that enthusiasm is matched only by his enjoyment of Venom. It's not every day that I meet someone who knows more about Venom than I do, but, here we are, reading a Venom story by someone who does! And, believe me, you ain't seen **NOTHIN'** yet. Donny's giving this story his all, and you guys won't want to miss a single pulse-pounding page.

And Donny's not the only one who's bringing it for this volume of **VENOM**. As regular readers are already aware, Ryan Stegman is no stranger to Eddie Brock or his alien alter ego, after the tremendous work he did on **THE AMAZING SPIDER-**

**MAN: VENOM INC**, be sure to pick it up if you haven't!

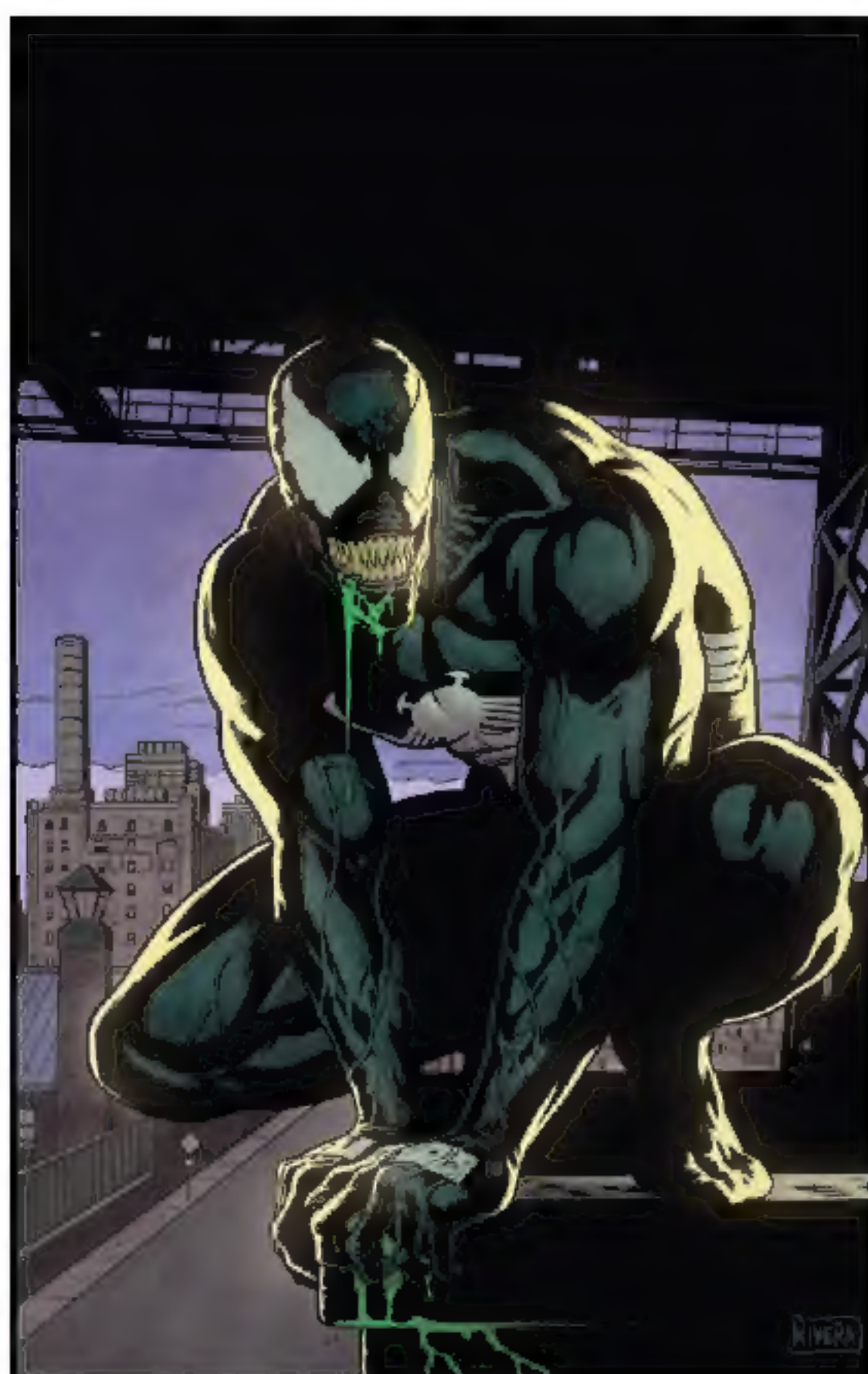
This book also wouldn't be possible without the efforts of J.P. Mayer, our terrific inker. This is actually J.P. and Ryan's first collaboration, but you'd never know it from looking at these pages! You readers out there in mighty Marvel-dom don't typically get to see the interior artwork from these books in black and white (unless that'd be something you'd be interested in? Tell your shop, or email us at [spideyoffice@marvel.com](mailto:spideyoffice@marvel.com)!), and getting to see the pages as Ryan and J.P. each complete them has been an absolute privilege.

Not that the colors are anything to balk at! Frank Martin's our colorist for this little jaunt, and I dunno what kind of deal he made with a back alley fortune teller to get his skills, but I hope he didn't have to give up his soul when he did.

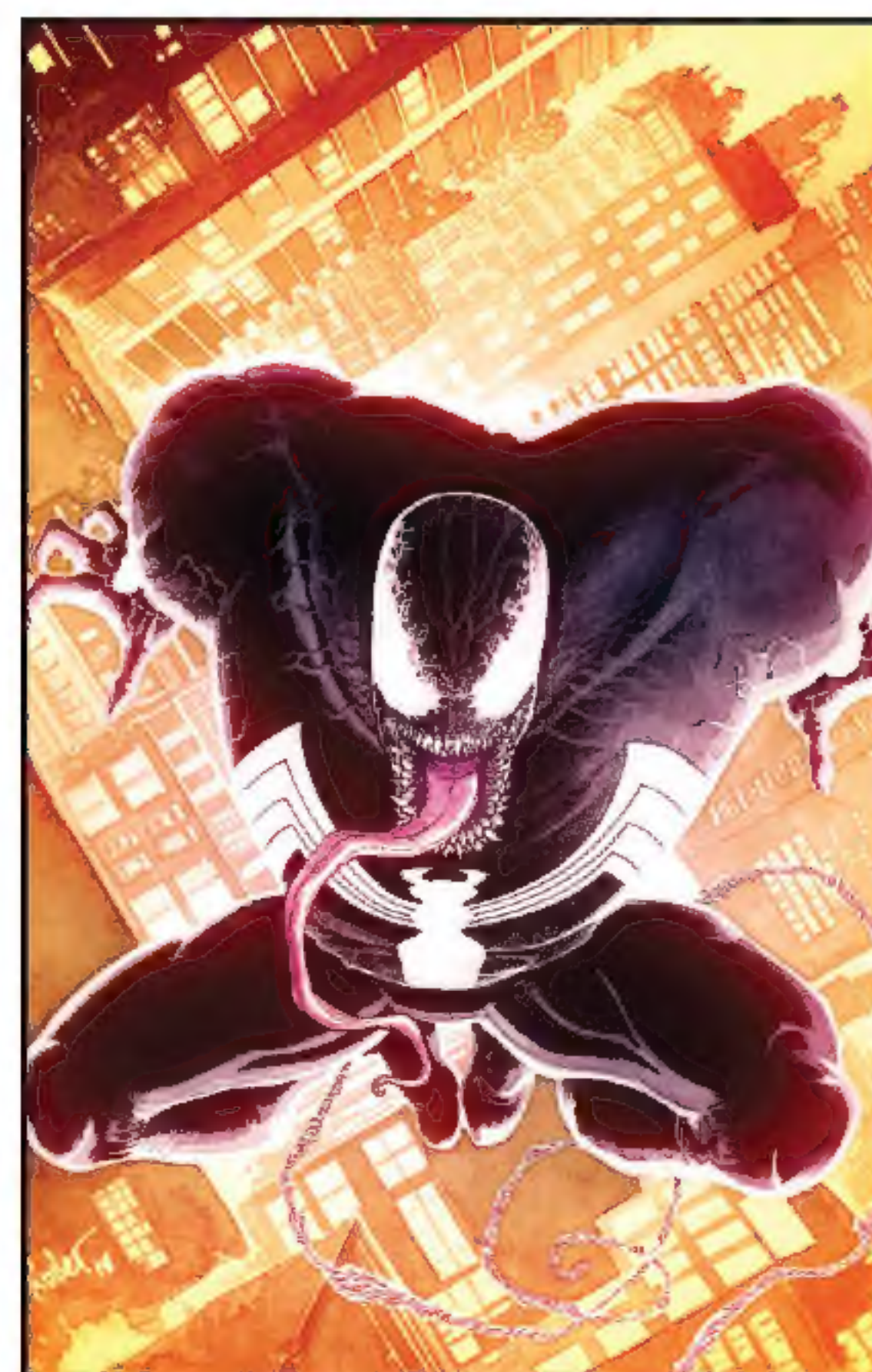
Add Clayton Cowles' lettering (and endless patience with yours truly!) to the mix, and the result is one special comic book – and we hope you all agree!

But those aren't the only talented folks who've joined us for this issue. In addition to the main cover, we've been fortunate enough to have several variant covers from a bevy of awesome illustrators. Let's take a peek, shall we?

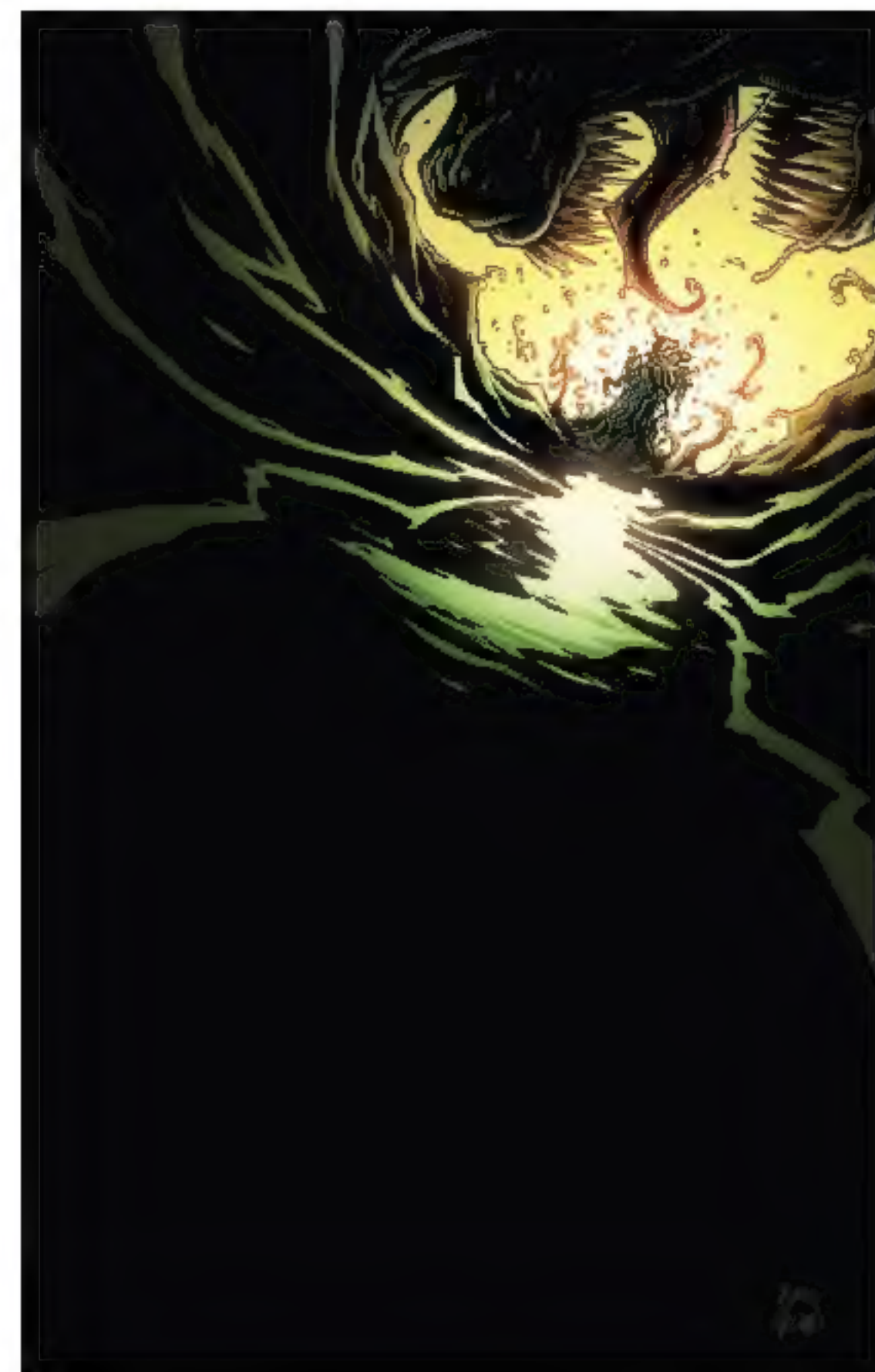
First up is a variant cover from **PAOLO RIVERA** –



Also joining us for a variant cover for this issue is recent **YOUNG GUNS** inductee, Aaron Kuder (who, in case you haven't been reading it, is doing some straight-up superlative work on the **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY** and **INFINITY** titles), and colored by Morry Hollowell. Now, returning Venomaniacs will know that I'm no fan of Venom's tongue, but even I can't deny how badass this cover is –



That's all the space we've got for this one, True Believers! Be back here next month for **VENOM** #2, as we tumble even farther down the rabbit hole...



Stay sharp!  
Devin

@edevinlewis



